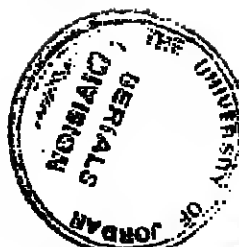


'Israelis killed Lebanese prisoners'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli paratroopers involved in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon beat to death seven prisoners who had been deprived of food and water for three days, the Israeli daily Hadashot said Friday. The paper published what it said were exclusive excerpts from the diary of the paratrooper unit's deputy commander who took part in the beatings in the small town of Sidon. According to the story, Israeli forces invaded Sidon in June 1982 and rounded up, with the help of informants, Palestinian guerrillas and their sympathizers. Some 1,500 prisoners were held on a basketball court at a school in Sidon for three days in sweltering heat, their hands bound, with virtually no water or food, it said. On the third day, riots erupted and the Israeli soldiers were ordered to beat prisoners. As a result of the beatings, seven died by the day's end, Hadashot said. "I never saw people die from beatings before. I never understood the meaning of 'death blows' ... at the end of the day seven bodies were dragged off the court to the shade of trees," Hadashot quoted the deputy commander as saying in his diary. The officer was interviewed by Hadashot but asked not to be named because he was now a public figure in frequent contact with local and foreign press.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Volume 15 Number 4438

AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1990, DHUL HIJJEH 22, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Pakistani Islamic judge arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Chief Islamic Justice Jamal Mohammad Khan arrived here Friday on a several-day official visit to Jordan for talks with the ministers of justice, awqaf and Islamic affairs and a number of senior officials on means of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields of Islamic jurisprudence, laws and regulations.

Lower House meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament convenes Saturday to discuss a ruling by the higher council for the interpretation of the constitution that the Lower House is not authorized to discuss the case of retiring the chief of the Audit Bureau unless a royal decree adds the issue to the agenda of the House's current extraordinary session. The House will also discuss the decisions adopted by both the legal and educational committees on the higher education and universities laws.

Crisis hits Indian government

NEW DELHI (AP) — Three government ministers resigned on Friday, catapulting the minority government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh into its deepest crisis since it came to power last year. Press Trust of India said Commerce Minister Arjun Nehru, Energy Minister Aziz Mohammad Khan and Junior Tourism Minister Satpal Malik had submitted their resignation to Singh.

Sharaa sees end to Iraq-Syria rift

CAIRO (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said in remarks published Friday his country's long-standing rift with Iraq would eventually be healed. "The day will come when reconciliation between the two brotherly nations is achieved when things are in their right places," Egypt's national Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted Sharaa as saying in an interview. Assad is due in Egypt Saturday for his first visit in 14 years. The two countries restored diplomatic ties in December after a 13-year break. Assad's talks with President Hosni Mubarak, who has visited Damascus twice since May, are likely to cover attempts to patch up the Syrian leader's personal and ideological differences with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. (see page 4).

Soviet hijack attempt fails

MOSCOW (R) — The eleventh attempt in the past month to hijack a Soviet airliner and fly it out of the country ended in failure when the hijacker was overpowered on board the plane, Soviet Television reported. Crew and passengers jumped on the teenage hijacker after he threatened to blow up the aircraft Thursday if it did not divert to Stockholm on a flight from Leningrad to the Arctic port of Murmansk. The aircraft returned to Leningrad's Pulkovo airport, where the youth was arrested. The television, in its Thursday night newscast, gave the hijacker's name as Lebedev, aged 17, from Leningrad. Of the 11 hijack attempts, six have ended in Stockholm or Helsinki, the other five in Soviet airports.

Romanians protest in opposition rally

BUCHAREST (R) — More than 20,000 people gathered outside government buildings in Bucharest Friday in the biggest opposition protest since December's uprising. Students addressing the crowd outside government headquarters in Victory Square demanded the release of jailed student leader Marian Munteanu and called on the National Salvation Front government to observe fundamental human rights in Romania. "Human rights in Romania should be on the same level as the civilized world," said Mihai Gheorghiu, vice-president of Bucharest University's student league.

Some cases need House action; some dropped because of unsubstantiation; others to go to court

Probes into corruption cases near completion

By Joumana Halasa and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — Three months of investigations into a series of cases of possible corruption have been completed, and the findings of cases involving "ministers" will be forwarded to the Lower House of Parliament for further action while some others have been shelved because of lack of evidence to support charges and the rest will be sent directly to court for legal proceedings, according to informed sources.

Results of investigation into at least one case — the JD 35 million Al Jafra-Mafrak highway project — have already been sent to the Lower House and two others — one involving charges that laboratory certificates related to foodstuffs were forged and the other stemming from allegations of bribery in awarding the Jbeha Amusement Park construction project — were dropped, according to a highly-placed source.

"Further action in the highway project case depends on the Lower House since it involves a 'minister,'" said the source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. He declined to identify the "minister" or clarify whether it meant a serving minister or former member of cabinet.

According to constitutional provisions, the term "minister" could be interpreted to mean both serving and former ministers as well as prime ministers and former prime ministers and any case involving a "minister" should be forwarded to the House for further action.

Under constitutional provisions, cases involving "ministers" should be tried only by a special court, which includes some of the top judges in the country. No special court has been called to session in the Kingdom's recent history.

Cases involving people not classified as "ministers" could be directly sent for trial by the prosecutor-general's office to regular courts.

Testimonies from officials and others in probes into charges of "high-level tampering" with government laboratory tests on food-

stuff and into allegations that officials accepted bribes for awarding the Jbeha Amusement Park project to a British company have failed to produce substantive evidence and therefore the cases have been dropped, according to the source. In the Jbeha case, it was found that the \$9 million contract was awarded to the lowest bidder and "there is no evidence that any official received any bribe," the source said.

"Findings also indicate that there is no ground for charges that a sale of Central Bank gold reserves (in early 1989) was illegal," according to the source. "It was found that the officials who carried out the sale were acting within their rights, and it is most likely that the case will be dropped," the source added.

These cases are among the nine that were forwarded to the prosecutor-general's office by the Lower House through the Ministry of Justice after a "secret session" of the House on March 20. All investigations, which started in the first week of April, are almost finished and the findings will be finalized into report forms this week. The prosecutor-general's office is not bound by law to report back to the House on cases which have been

dropped or those which do not involve "ministers," according to the source.

"There are concrete grounds for charges in at least four or five cases," the source said. These include the Swaga prison project, the Abu Naser housing complex project, arbitrary waivers of Ministry of Supply penalties, construction projects of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), and a controversial settlement of a JD 4 million payment to a foreign company related to the Hijaz Railway, he said.

In addition, there are also two other cases forwarded to the prosecutor-general's office by the martial law authorities — charges of mismanagement of funds and absence of proper records at the Jordan Drivers' Union and the ex-servicemen association, according to the source.

Parliamentary sources confirmed that the House had received the findings of the Al Jafra-Mafrak highway project, but it was not immediately known when the issue would be debated by the House.

The project — building a 180-kilometre stretch of reinforced concrete highway — was awarded to an Indian private sector company and was worth \$104 million at

(Continued on page 4)

Rationalisation and cooperation essential to end water crisis...

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's recurrent water shortage problems can be combated and reduced through a comprehensive plan of rationing, efficient water authority maintenance as well as proper city planning vis-a-vis services, according to the head of the Water Authority of Jordan.

"This is the second year in a row that we are faced with severe water shortages in the Kingdom. If everyone cooperates we can overcome the problem in a reasonable fashion," Moatez Bilbisi, head of the Jordan Water Authority, told the Jordan Times.

The Water Authority is working round the clock to repair technical leakages across the Kingdom that were adding to the inefficient usage of water.

"These leakages are only one of several problems that have to be dealt with," he said.

While demand for water is

increasing by 10 per cent per annum there are no new water sources being discovered in the Kingdom, according to Bilbisi. All the main low aqua level water sources have already been exploited and the water authority is now considering the use of deep aqua level water.

Some of the areas under consideration for water exploitation are Sirhan, Idise and Azraq. The deep aqua level water sources in these areas go down as far as 1000 metres, according to officials at the water authority.

The average low aqua flow is anywhere between 250 to 400 metres below the surface, while deep aqua flow is anywhere from 800 to 1000 metres.

Although southern Jordan is not affected by water shortages at all this year since its resources sufficiently cover its needs, areas in central and northern Jordan are up to one-fourth short of its water needs.

"The municipality of Amman needs 12,000 cubic metre to serve its water needs in the summer months. We only have 9,000 cubic metres," Bilbisi pointed out. In 1989 Jordan consumed 175 million cubic metres of drinking water.

Other areas in the north and central areas such as Irbid and Balqa, where the water shortages are not quite as acute, the inhabitants "nevertheless have to ration water."

Despite theories which predict low rainfall only once every four years, Bilbisi said, it is difficult to rely on such predictions. "We can't afford to rely on predictions. We have to be prepared for any emergency," he said.

During the winter months Jordanians use 30 per cent less water than during the summer months and some water experts and officials have suggested "year around rationing" to avoid severe shortages such as the one the Kingdom is

(Continued on page 3)

... but pollution is another key problem which needs solution

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — This year's headlines in the local papers were made by issues on Earth and environment, pollution and water usage, the eruption of water quality in the three reservoirs of the Kingdom (Wadi Zigmah Dam, Wadi Arab Dam and King Talal Dam) found that water ranged from "essentially free from contamination" in the first dam, to "fairly polluted" in the second one and "severely polluted" in the last one.

The soap industry in Jordan continues to manufacture soaps with unacceptable contents — alkyl benzene sulfonates (ABS) — which are non-biodegradable detergents, according to Brummett. "This detergent gets deposited at the bottom, but when water is stirred it surfaces," he said.

The detergent affects fish and, even though fishing in King Talal Dam is prohibited, there are people who do fish and end up eating contaminated fish.

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) collected and analysed water and fish tissues several times during the summer of 1988. Heavy metals and bacteria were analysed and the

verdict was — "unfit for human consumption."

It was found that arsenic and bacteria from genera salmonella, staphylococcus, vibrio, aeromonas and shigella were major pollutants. While arsenic poses a longer term danger to fish and water users, the bacteria are an immediate threat.

Total bacteria counts from carp muscle tissue averaged 23,833 cells per gramme while the maximum allowable count in the U.S. is 2.3 cells per gramme, and in the United Kingdom it is 15 cells per gramme, according to RSS records.

Water in the dams feeds the Jordan Valley. It goes up to Khirbat Samra. There, the Water Authority has a sewage stabilisation facility where water is treated. The water is oxidised and, according to the treatment technology, pathogenic bacteria and the parasite eggs die if given enough time. In the end, through chlorine contact, bacteria is neutralised and water is considered properly treated.

The capacity of the waste treatment facility is becoming increasingly smaller for the water that needs treatment. Too many industries have sprung up in the area

(Continued on page 3)

Swedish envoy leaves Iraq in protest

BAGHDAD (R) — Sweden's ambassador to Iraq left for home Friday after being recalled in protest at the execution of an Iraqi-born Swede for spying.

A Swedish company executive working in Baghdad told Reuters by telephone that Ambassador Henrik Amneus left for Stockholm early Friday after being recalled for consultations.

Iraq has so far maintained complete silence over the hanging, in marked contrast to its swift report of the execution of a London-based journalist in March, which drew broad Western condemnation.

Baghdad media made no mention of the hanging Wednesday of Jalil Mohdi Al Neamy, an Iraqi-born naturalised Swede.

So far the only official source for news of his execution has been the Swedish Foreign Ministry, which had pressed the Iraqis for clemency through Amneus.

One Arab diplomat in Baghdad said an Iraqi official, who asked that he not be identified, had confirmed Neamy had been hanged.

Sweden said Neamy, who received Swedish citizenship in 1985, was arrested last Aug. 9 while visiting Iraq. A revolutionary court in Baghdad sentenced him to death on April 30 for working with the Israeli secret service, Mossad.

Iraq hanged London-based Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist, March 15 after a court convicted him of spying for Israel and Britain.

President Saddam Hussein said Wednesday he decided not to reprieve Bazoft because of what he said was a Western campaign to humiliate Iraq.

Unlike Neamy, Bazoft's execution was officially announced within 24 hours.

Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said Tuesday: "The execution of the Swedish citizen Al Neamy must be strongly condemned. Our ambassador in Baghdad... has been recalled for consultations in view of the execution."

Gorbachev emerges triumphant from party congress despite split

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, emerging triumphant from two weeks of struggle with hardliners at a key Communist Party congress, offered a "broad coalition" Friday to push ahead with radical reform.

In a final speech to the 4,700 delegates, he also declared: "No one will be permitted to wreck perestroika (his reform programme)."

The idea of a broad coalition of this congress in order to overcome the crisis and carry out profound reform is not a tactical move but a serious proposal dictated by the interests of the country and the people," he said.

Gorbachev, reelected party general secretary by the 12-day congress, said the offer was aimed at "other democratic forces" — an apparent reference to radicals who have complained he was moving too slowly to change Soviet society.

"Those who had been calculating that this would be the last

congress and that it would witness the party's funeral have miscalculated," he proclaimed to resounding applause.

"The Communist Party of the Soviet Union lives and will live on and make its historical contribution to the progress of our country and the progress of world civilisation."

In its last hours, the marathon congress elected a policy-setting central committee which seemed certain to give Gorbachev a centrist majority, but only after he used his well-known powers of persuasion to turn round a vote which went against him.

Gorbachev's triumph was diluted, however, with announcements by the mayors of Moscow and Leningrad that they were joining Boris Yeltsin in quitting the Communist Party, putting the country's two largest cities as well as its heartland republic in the hands of non-communists.

The exodus of leading reformers from the party, started Thursday by Yeltsin, gathered steam as the party's 28th congress

drew to a close. Leaders of the Democratic Platform reform group said they would cap their departure by founding their own, non-communist party this fall.

The congress "showed the complete inability of the party to offer the country a real programme of transition to a new society," said mayors Gavril Popov of Moscow and Anatoly Sobchak of Leningrad in a statement.

Popov, an economist, and Sobchak, a lawyer, were elected this spring as reform-minded candidates swept to power in local councils. Under their leadership, the two city councils have been trying to break the control of local Communist Party organisations.

"They have been active in the same reform circles of Soviet politics as Yeltsin."

Gorbachev, also Soviet state president, said in an interview with the American CBS network that he felt "contempt" for people who were leaving the party.

Powell concerned over arms build-up, not war

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. General Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Friday that he was disturbed with the weapons buildup in the Middle East but did not anticipate that war would break out.

Powell, who is the top U.S. military officer, made the comments to reporters after an hour-long meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel was his last stop on a five-country orientation tour that earlier took him to Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan.

Powell noted that there were sophisticated weapons in the region, including ballistic missiles, and that "armies are building in size rather than going down in size, which is what we're starting to see happen in other parts of the world."

He said the trend was worrisome but he did not consider war inevitable.

"I think that it is clear to anyone examining the situation — that the correlation of forces are such and the strength of Israel's relations with others is such — that there would be little prospect of success in going to war," Powell said.

He added: "I don't really see a serious prospect of war breaking out, notwithstanding a great deal of rhetoric about the subject."

Asked about the likelihood that the United States would agree to fund the second phase of Israel's Arrow missile project, he said the matter was still under discussion in Washington.

Israeli newspapers reported this week that Israel will soon launch its first test of the Arrow, which is being developed with U.S. strategic defence initiative funds to combat short-range ballistic missiles.

The Jerusalem Post reported Thursday that such a test was "imminent," but gave no date.

Washington provided 80 per cent of the \$158 million in the first phase of the project, and Israel's defence ministry supplied the balance. Israel is seeking about \$200 million from the United States for the second phase.

After meeting with Powell Thursday, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens told reporters: "I think we've apparently found an answer to ground-to-ground missiles. We expect the U.S. administration to continue funding this project so that we can successfully complete its development and arm ourselves with it."

An Israeli army spokesman, who cannot be identified under military rules, said Powell was to be given a tour later Friday of the Arrow project site. The Arrow is being developed jointly by Israeli Aircraft Industries and the American Lockheed Corporation.

PLO says it okayed meeting with Arens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in a published interview Friday that the PLO approved in advance the first major meeting between local Palestinians and a cabinet minister in the new Israeli government.

The meeting between Defence Minister Moshe Arens and three West Bank Palestinian mayors came after the new right-wing government said it hoped to reach a Middle East peace settlement by talking only to Palestinians not linked to the PLO.

Israel's refusal to give the PLO even an indirect role in peace negotiations was one reason that United States' efforts to mediate a peace settlement have run into troubles.

Abdullah Hourani, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said in the interview with the Jerusalem Arabic weekly Al-Nadwa that the PLO knew of the meeting ahead of time and got reports on it afterwards.

"The PLO endorsed a meeting as a chance for Palestinian national figures to notify the Israeli official that the PLO is the legitimate representative... for the Palestinian people," Hourani was quoted as saying.

Mayor Farah Araj of Beit Jala, one of those who met with Arens June 27, said that the account given by Hourani was correct.

"The content of our talks (with Arens) that the PLO is the only representative is also correct," he told the Associated Press Friday.

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, who also attended the meeting, only said that Hourani "has the right to say this" when asked about the PLO official's comments.

Freij had said after the June meeting that the officials told Arens that only the PLO could negotiate with Israel.

The third major who attended, Hanna Atrash of Beit Sahour, was not available for comment.

After Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir formed the new right-wing government July 11, officials immediately reiterated the stand that the government would not negotiate with the PLO.

Officials said later that the government's peace effort would focus on trying to open talks with non-PLO Palestinians, a tactic that has repeatedly failed in the past.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, a top policy adviser to Shamir, explained the government's plan this way: "We are going to make a determined effort to convince our Palestinians here that the PLO option is not available."

U.S. efforts to arrange Israeli-Palestinian peace talks installed in March when Shamir turned down a compromise.

5,000 Albanians evacuated to Italy

BRINDISI, Italy (Agencies) — Four shiploads of tired but joyous Albanians reached this Adriatic port Friday as ferries evacuated about 5,000 asylum seekers from Western embassies in Europe's last hardline communist state.

The mass evacuation of most of the refugees who had fled in the last two weeks to several embassies in Tirana, the Albanian capital, was expected to ease one of the worst crises to hit the Albanian government in decades.

The first ship, the Espresso Grecia, arrived shortly after 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) after some seven hours crossing the Adriatic Sea with refugees who were put aboard at the Albanian port of Durres.

As it docked, a Red Cross nun in a starched white uniform dashed off clutching a newborn baby in an orange blanket, the first refugee to arrive on Italian soil.

"I feel so many emotions, so much liberty," a beaming young woman said in Italian as she got off the ship. Police whisked her away before she could give her name.

Albanians lining the decks of three other ships broke into chants of "Italia, Italia" and "we shall win" in Italian as they arrived late Friday morning.

About 3,200 of the evacuees were taken from the West German mission in Tirana. They were put aboard three trains sent to Brindisi by Germany after a quick breakfast of hot milk and croissants provided by the local government. Each passenger was given a basket of food for the 30-hour journey.

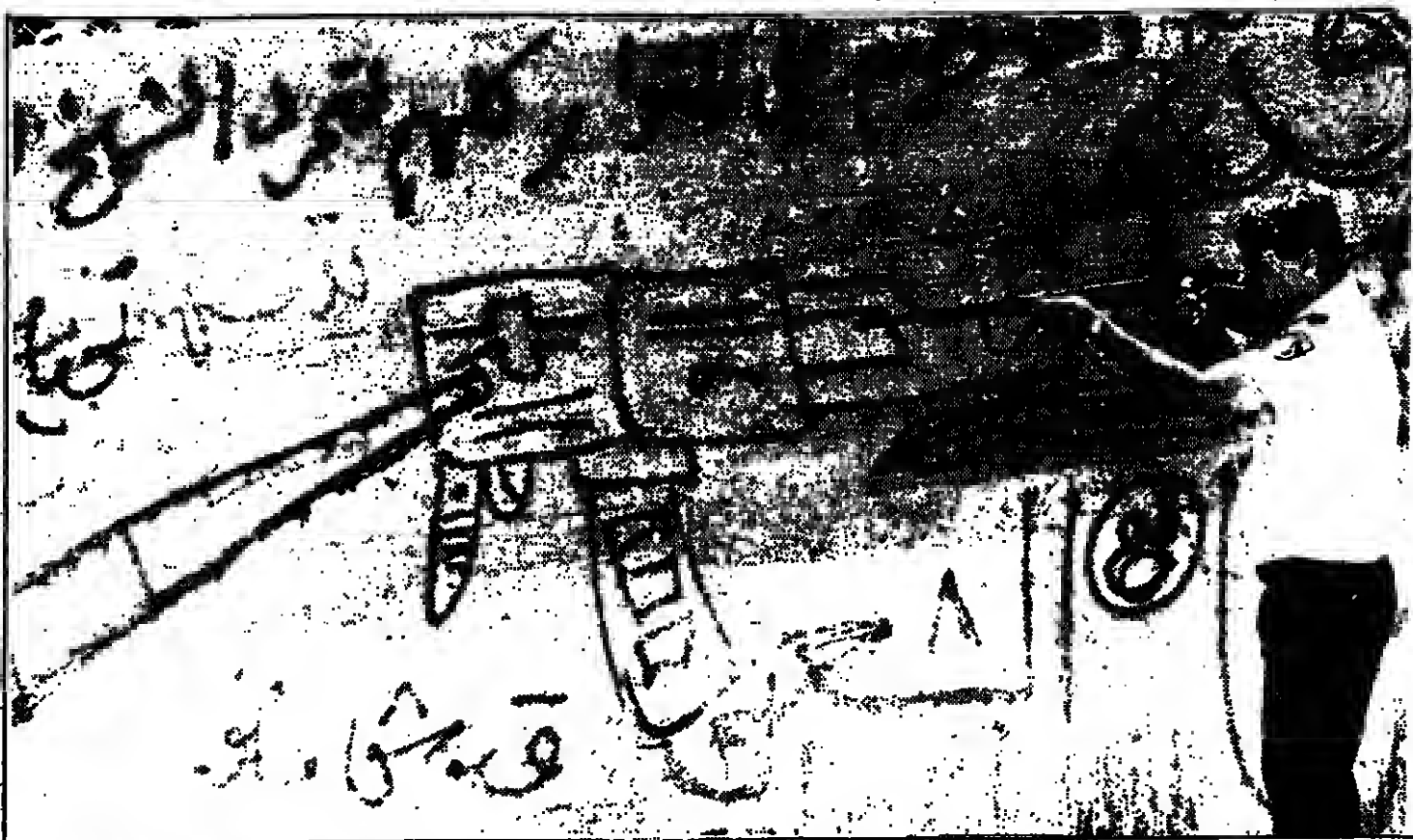
Officials said the operation to bring around 5,000 refugees from Tirana to Durazzo and on to five ships was carried out secretly at night.

By this means Albania's hardline communist rulers sought to avoid a mass assault on the rescue fleet by hundreds of other dissidents wanting to join the Westward exodus.

But Italian officials reported scuffles broke out as more asylum-seekers tried to board the ships in Durazzo when the refugees were smuggled out under cover of darkness.

The government of President Ramez Alia this week granted exit visas to the refugees who scaled walls, broke embassy gates with trucks and squeezed through fences to seek asylum.

A French-chartered ferry carrying 545 refugees who sheltered in France's Tirana mission left Durazzo during the night on its way to Marseille.



An Israeli policeman opens fire at Palestinian protesters in Jerusalem's Shuafat refugee camp

Christian emigration on the rise from Jerusalem and Holy Land

By Ghazali
The Associated Press

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— One of the first survey taken of Arab Christians in Jerusalem and the occupied territories indicates that emigration is on the rise, reducing the already small minority in the Holy Land, researchers.

They blame a lack of jobs and violence connected with the 31-month uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as major causes.

There also are fears that the arrival of thousands of Soviet Jews in Israel could speed up the exodus of the Christians.

"The immigration of the Soviet Jews is a serious blow to Arabs in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and inside Israel," said Geris Khouri, head of the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research in Bethlehem.

The Soviets will increase competition for jobs inside Israel, where many Palestinians from the occupied territories work, Khouri said. Palestinians also fear they will be displaced if the Soviets settle in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Khouri, an Israeli Arab who supervised the survey, released preliminary findings at a three-day conference in Jerusalem last week.

The survey involved interviews with 550 Christian clans from Jerusalem and four West Bank towns: Ramallah, Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour.

Bernard Sabila, a sociology professor at Bethlehem University and a researcher on the project, said the study showed that 38 families within the clans have left each year since the uprising began in December 1987. That is more than twice the departure rate preceding the uprising, he added.

Sabila said that if the results are extrapolated to the entire Arab Christian population, a total of more than 2,160 Christians are leaving each year.

Most have gone to the United States, Canada, Australia and various European nations, he said.

There are believed to be only 45,000 Christians among the 1.8 million Palestinians who live in the occupied territories and Jerusalem, the conference was told. About 91,000 more Christians live in Israel.

The Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, told the conference that church leaders should work to keep Christians in the Holy Land and to lure back those who have left.

He said the rallying call should be: "Come to the Holy Land. Endure the hardships

with us. The church is weak without you."

Church leaders also warned that the decline in the Christian population could make the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's Old City more vulnerable to settlement by Jews.

They pointed out that 150 Israeli settlers moved earlier this year into St. John's Hospice, a compound in the Christian quarter owned by the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Jewish settlers said the building had been legally leased from a Panamanian company. The church contended it was illegally sold and got a court order evicting most of the Israelis until the issue is resolved in court.

"The St. John's incident is a fearful warning to Christians that if they leave their homes, others will take their place," Greek Catholic Bishop Lutfi Laham said.

Within the 550 clans that were surveyed, researchers determined that 610 family members have moved abroad, including those who fled since the intifada began in 1987.

They noted that Christians often have an easier time emigrating than Muslims because they generally have better educations, thanks to church-run schools, and have contacts through Western church leaders that ease their transition to the West.

Nearly half of those who have left do not intend to return, family members told the researchers.

The survey showed that lack of job opportunities was the primary reason for departing. Some 46.3 per cent of those who left in the past two years said they were seeking jobs abroad.

Work in the occupied territories has been severely disrupted by frequent stone-throwing clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians, and businesses are often closed by Palestinian protest strikes or Israeli-imposed curfews.

Sabila said that Israeli limits on economic growth meant that only 1,000 new jobs were created in the occupied territories each year. Meanwhile, Arab high schools graduate 25,000 students per year.

The closure of West Bank universities since shortly after the start of the uprising is another factor in increased emigration, said Hanan Ashrawi, head of the English department at Bir Zeit University and a political activist.

She noted that departure of young Palestinian Christians became "compulsory" if they wanted higher education.

"The closure of all six universities is a main factor in the Palestinian emigration," she said.

Ethiopia seeks to barter Jews for Israeli arms

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Ethiopia has abruptly suspended the emigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel in an apparent effort to force Israel to send it more weapons, the New York Times said Friday.

It quoted Congressman Howard Wolpe as saying Ethiopia was not honouring a commitment to the United States to allow freer emigration.

But an Israeli spokesman denied the report, saying immigration was going ahead and Israel was not selling arms to Ethiopia.

Israel re-established ties with Ethiopia in October last year after a 16-year break. U.S. officials have often expressed concern that Israel may be trading military equipment, including cluster bombs, in exchange for free migration of thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Wolpe, a Michigan Democrat, said Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam visited Israel last week on a diplomatic mission apparently related to the flow of Ethiopian Jews to Israel according to the Times.

It said Mengistu met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and then flew in an Israeli transport plane to Rome for meetings with Italian officials.

Israel did not confirm the meeting, the Times said.

Asked to comment on the newspaper report, a senior Israeli official told Reuters immigration was continuing.

"It continues at an average pace with sometimes a few more, sometimes a few less, but it continues in the framework of the reunification of families," he said.

"As far as arms go, we are not selling arms or sending weapons to Ethiopia," including cluster bombs — definitely not.

Last week Shamir's senior adviser Avi Pazner termed reports of Mengistu's visit "speculation."

Sources quoted in a Washington Jewish Week article said Israel had refused Mengistu's request for 1,000 cluster bombs, instead of the 100 it had agreed to sell, after strong U.S. warnings against such a move.

Wolpe, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, warned Ethiopia that its attempts to hold its 15,000 Jews hostage would provoke congressional action.

"I certainly hope the Ethiopian regime does not persist in this effort. If they do, I think there will be a strong reaction from Congress," Mr. Wolpe told the Jewish newspaper.

At the same time, Wolpe warned Israel that its military involvement with Ethiopia could harm rather than help Ethiopian Jews.

"This may well be Mengistu's last days, and its conceivable more harm could come to the Ethiopian struggle," he said.

A confidential congressional staff report drafted by Steve Morrison, a staff member of Wolpe's committee, concluded that there is "a certain cynical logic" underlying Israel's exchange of military assistance for Jewish immigration that is "likely to contribute to the deaths of thousands of Ethiopians — and the humanitarian interests of Ethiopian Jews."

In January, the New York Times quoted unnamed U.S. officials as saying they strongly suspected Israel had supplied Ethiopia with cluster bombs for use against rebel forces. Other unconfirmed reports said Israel also supplied Mengistu with military advisers, ammunition and spare parts.

Israel has denied it supplied cluster bombs to Ethiopia. It refused to confirm or deny reports of other supposed arms sales under its standing policy of not discussing any weapons deals.

Rahamin Elazar, chairman of the Public Council for Ethiopian Affairs in Israel, also said Mengistu was demanding arms from Israel to allow more Jews to leave his country for Israel.

"Mengistu is trying to use them (the Ethiopian Jews) for military aid," he said. "He is trying to squeeze Israel for aid."

Israel has sought to bring out all of Ethiopia's Jews since immigration was cut off in 1984 when a secret airlift campaign known as Operation Moses was halted after the Ethiopian government learned of it.

Some 8,000 Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel in the U.S.-supported, three-month operation.

Elazar told the Associated Press that some 10,000 Ethiopian Jews are "encamped" in Addis Ababa after leaving villages in the province of Gondar in hopes of eventually immigrating to Israel.

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Israel.

The Jews went to the Ethiopian capital after Israel and Mengistu's government resumed diplomatic relations last October, Elazar said, adding his information came from Jews who managed to leave Ethiopia.

A recent article in the independent Hebrew daily Haaretz written by Zeev Schiff, a respected military analyst, charged U.S. officials were attempting to damage Israel's image by fabricating the reports of cluster bomb sales.

The United States has been critical of Israeli support for Ethiopia. The U.S. government objects to sale of cluster bombs by Israel without Washington's permission since the weapons were developed with U.S. technology.

Cluster bombs are dropped from aircraft and scatter small bombs over a wide area.

Foreign journalists have reported seeing cluster bombs used by Ethiopian government aircraft on rebel forces, but they were unable to determine the original of the bombs.

Since the resumption of ties between the two countries, several hundred Ethiopians have arrived in Israel each month. But Ethiopian activists here have charged Israeli officials are not doing enough to get their country men out.

A top Jewish Agency official responded to these complaints by "the rate of Ethiopian emigration is not up to us." He would not discuss the reports that Mengistu is holding up emigration.

The Jewish Agency is a quasi-governmental body responsible for immigration, the official spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hagai Ehrlich, an Ethiopia expert at Tel Aviv University, said he believed Mengistu was blocking emigration in hopes of gaining arms. But he added he did not expect the Israeli government to provide weapons to the besieged leader.

He added he believed Israel's best interest would be for Mengistu to compromise with the rebels, who have been getting backing from Arab governments.

"The Ethiopian government is in a terrible state," he said. "Israel understands that the only way out for him is a compromise, and will therefore not send him support."

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Israeli minister rejects charges

TEL AVIV (AP) — The religious affairs minister in Israel's cabinet said Friday he did nothing wrong when he kept silent about the role of his wife and other relatives in charities to which he funnelled public funds.

Minister Avner Shabi, a law professor and member of the right-wing National Religious Party, maintained that his relatives were unpaid volunteers who did not benefit from the money, reportedly as much as one million shekels (\$500,000).

Shabi is a member of a ministerial committee that controls government funds which come from bequests to the state of Israel. The money goes to charities and other organizations.

Justice ministry spokeswoman Etty Eshel said Friday that attorney General Yosef Harish would check whether there should be a police investigation against Shabi.

Police complaints against Shabi were filed by the Movement for Progressive Judaism and Ofir Pines, a member of the left-leaning Labour Party's youth movement, Israel Radio said.

The Shabi case marked the second controversy involving a politician from a religious party in the past month.

In June, police opened an investigation of interior minister Aryeh Peri of the ultra-orthodox Shas party. Peri, 30, is suspected of illegally channelling hundreds of thousands of shekels in government funds to religious institutions that supported Shas.

In an interview with army radio, Shabi, maintained that he urged his wife and the other relatives to resign from the four charities involved as soon as the organisation requested government funds.

Asked by the radio why he did not tell the other committee members about his relatives, Shabi said: "What does it matter as long as they resigned. Why should I have announced it?"

The radio interviewers noted that Shabi's wife still heads one of the organisations, "The Light of the World," which distributes wheelchairs, respirators and other medical equipment to the needy.

WFP to assess situation at critical Ethiopian port

NAIROBI (AP) — The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) says it is sending a team to assess the condition of Ethiopia's rebel-held port of Massawa as a first step toward reopening the facility to famine-relief shipments.

The team of four technicians is due to arrive at Massawa Monday aboard a ship sailing from neighbouring Djibouti, a small country nestled in the crook of Africa's Horn, WFP announced Thursday.

It will be the first time members of an international relief organisation visited the port since it was captured by Eritrean rebels in February, according to the Rome-based organisation.

Since its capture, the facility has been repeatedly bombed by Ethiopian fighter planes.

Depending on the condition of Massawa, "major food aid shipments could commence through the port in a matter of weeks," said WFP, in a statement sent to news organisations in Nairobi by telex.

Food is reaching many parts of drought-stricken northern Ethiopia through a southern

truck route run by Ethiopian church groups, through a cross-border operation run by international relief groups, and by two planes airlifting food to Eritrea's capital, Asmara, by WFP, the organisation said.

"Food deliveries are still insufficient to meet the needs of the estimated 3.5 to 4 million people in the northern part of the country affected by almost total crop failure in 1989," WFP said.

Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) both recently have expressed their willingness to allow use of the port for humanitarian purposes.

The EPLF has seized control of most of Eritrea, Ethiopia's northernmost province, except for Asmara, which remains in government hands.

A separate insurgency controls all of Tigre, Eritrea's southern neighbour, which also has suffered widespread drought.

"The food situation in the north is extremely poor and will become worse before the new harvest in October," WFP said.

Ghost town to be under Turkish Cypriot control

NICOSIA (R) — United Nations peacekeepers said Friday they were investigating reports that Turkish-Cypriot troops would take control of an abandoned resort adjoining the buffer zone dividing Cyprus.

Sources close to the military in breakaway north Cyprus said Turkish-Cypriot forces would soon take over from mainland Turkish troops in Varosha, formerly a Greek-Cypriot suburb of Famagusta.

The sources said police posts would be set up in Varosha, whose high-rise hotels and apartment blocks have been crumbling and deserted since the Turkish invasion in 1974.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the move. Any suggestion that Turkish Cypriots might settle Varosha is likely to cause outrage in the Greek-Cypriot south.

The self-proclaimed Turkish-Cypriot northern republic reacted angrily to this month's application by the Cyprus government to join the European Community (EC).

Turkish-Cypriot Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu said Thursday he might break off talks aimed at reuniting the island in a federation.

The resettlement of Varosha has been on the agenda in previous rounds of United Nations-sponsored talks. The latest round broke down in February.

Protesters in the south are planning rallies to commemorate next week's anniversary of the invasion, which followed a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

"Both U.N. headquarters in New York and UNFICYP (United Nations Forces in Cyprus) are following developments on this matter, and being concerned about possible consequences, UNFICYP is in direct contact with both sides on a political and military level," said an UNFICYP spokesman in Nicosia.

Famagusta port handled 83 per cent of the island's cargo traffic before the invasion and Varosha was one of the principal resorts.

The dilapidated and rattle-infested suburb is clearly visible from the south of the buffer zone patrolled by 2,100 U.N. troops and is a bitter reminder to Greek Cypriots of what they lost.

Saudi paper blames Iran for Haj disaster

NICOSIA (R) — A Saudi Arabian newspaper, responding to bitter Iranian attacks over last week's Haj tunnel disaster, said Friday Tehran was partly to blame for the stampede in which more than 1,400 pilgrims died.

The daily Al Riyadh said in an editorial that fears of possible Iranian attack aggravated the stampede near Mecca.

"Iran's precedents and intimidation of pilgrims, starting with smuggling explosives and ending with trying to explode bridges near the Mecca mosque, made pilgrims feel in danger of any incident instigated by Iran," the paper said.

"The feeling that Iran may commit any crimes to exploit the Haj season made the masses crowded in the tunnel imagine that the stampede and the falling of people were motivated by such

behaviour."

The editorial was carried by the Saudi Press Agency, monitored in Cyprus.

Saudi Arabia said 1,426 people suffocated or were trampled underfoot on July 2 when pilgrims packed into the tunnel despite safety instructions began panicking.

Iran has demanded an investigation, claiming the Saudis are unfit to govern Islam's holiest shrines. Officials in Turkey and Indonesia have also called for an inquiry.

Last year, a Pakistani pilgrim was killed and 16 others were wounded by bombs planted near holy shrines in Mecca.

Saudi Arabia, blaming Tehran for sending explosives to the kingdom, beheaded 16 Kuwaitis, including 10 of Iranian origin, after convincing them of planting

the bombs.

Saudi Arabia has affirmed that the Mecca tragedy happened when seven people tumbled from an overhead bridge at the mouth of a pedestrian tunnel, precipitating panic and a stampede.

An interior ministry spokesman made the statement to the Saudi Press Agency because of "wrong claims and deceitful fabrications."

Among these, the spokesman mentioned reports attributed to eyewitnesses about the tragedy being caused or compounded by a power failure within the Meccan tunnel which blocked off its ventilation system.

The statement also rejected claims of car collisions at either end of the tunnel, a security blockade of the tunnel and firing by security forces on the congested crowds within the tunnel.

The statement urged the media "not to circulate entirely baseless rumours that seditious parties are spreading."

It was apparently referring to charges from some officials in Iran and pro-Iranians in Lebanon that the Saudi authorities were to blame for the disaster.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have been at loggerheads for years because of Iran's attempts to turn the annual Islamic ceremonies into political rallies.

During the pilgrimage season of 1987, the Iranian pilgrims clashed with Saudi security men and 402 were killed, most of them Iranians.

Saudi Arabia subsequently ruptured ties with Iran accusing its leaders of terrorism, and claimed a quota on the number of pilgrims. The Iranians have boycotted the Haj over the past three years.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
17:30 Children's programme
18:00 Educational programme
18:00 News Summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic varieties
21:00 World Cup: Italy vs. England
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO
17:45 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Joint Account
21:00 Encounter
21:30 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Shama and Beyond"

King Fahd condoles Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received a cable of condolences from King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in which he expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic event which claimed the lives of more than 1,400 pilgrims, including some Jordanian pilgrims.

In his cable, King Fahd said that the incident was caused by heavy congestion in the tunnel leading to Mina, one of the places where religious rites are performed, and that the accident happened by fate and divine decree.

King Fahd expressed his heartfelt condolences and those of the Saudi government and people over this tragic event to King Hussein and the families of the bereaved and those injured in the incident.



CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA: A folklore performance (left) and a book exhibition at the sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts which began Wednesday. Twelve Arab and foreign groups in addition to dozens of 17-day event (Photos by Yousef Al 'Alana).

India, Jordan share many concerns, says parliament deputy speaker

by Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A message from Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh to His Majesty King Hussein delivered Wednesday dealt with a series of issues of mutual concern, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq situation, activities of the non-aligned movement, and international development as well as the Kashmir dispute, according to a senior Indian parliamentarian.

Nejm Hebtollah, deputy speaker of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, who was received by the King Wednesday and held talks with other senior officials Thursday, said India and Jordan shared many concerns in common.

"Whatever happens in the international scene affects us both," she told the Jordan Times in an interview Thursday.

Hebtollah, who described her visit as a "goodwill mission in view of the traditionally strong relations" between Jordan and India said Amman and New Delhi held identical views on many issues.

The Indian parliamentarian, whose trip here is seen as part of India's efforts to secure support for its position in its dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, said New Delhi was only seeking "to present the reality of the situation in Kashmir."

"If the actual situation is understood then support will follow," she said. "We are not seeking sympathy from the Arab or Islamic worlds, but are trying to portray the historical background and geographical considerations behind the Kashmir dispute."

Hebtollah, a Muslim member of the opposition Congress (I) party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and a serving parliamentarian in the

upper house for the past 10 years, criticised what she described as Pakistan's efforts to "turn the Kashmir problem into an Islamic issue."

The dispute, she contended, "is not religious. It is a question of some Kashmiris being misguidedly." She argued that "the majority of Kashmiris do not support the rebellion or separation from India."

The Indian-Pakistan conflict, which dates back to 1947 when the sub-continent was divided into predominantly Hindu India and mainly Muslim Pakistan, flared into open violence earlier this year. Over 400 people have been killed since then, with New Delhi and Islamabad trading charges against each other.

Pakistan has accused India of gross violations of human rights in Kashmir in its efforts to put down a separatist rebellion by Muslim militants in the picturesque Himalayan valley and has called for international involvement in moves to settle the problem of Kashmir, one third of which is under Pakistani control and the rest ruled by India. New Delhi, which says Kashmir is an integral part of India, has rejected the charges and accused Pakistan of arming and training the separatists. Islamabad denies the revolt in Kashmir as an "uprising of people against Indian rule."

According to Hebtollah, India only wants Pakistan to "stop its training and supply of weapons to the separatists."

"Once this is done, we are capable of settling the problem, which is exclusively Indian," she told the Jordan Times.

Asked how India viewed an assertion by American Senator Alan Cranston that Saudi Arabia and Iran were supporting the militants in Kashmir, she said: "We don't react to such statements from Americans."

We do not need Americans to tell us what is our problem since it was the imperialists and colonialists who created the problems in West Asia, including the Palestinian problem, in the first place. We do not trust them."

"India has very good relations with Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab World as well as Iran," she said, implying that Cranston's assertion could be aimed at undermining those ties.

Hebtollah said she found a "very good understanding of the Kashmir situation by Jordan" during her talks Wednesday with the King, and her meetings on Wednesday with Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and Lower House of Parliament Speaker Salehman Arar. "I also found the same response from Iraq and Kuwait as well as the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)," she said.

During her talks in Amman, the two sides agreed that peaceful negotiations were the means to settle problems in West Asia, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Asked why the Indian government chose her — a member of the opposition rather than a member of the ruling party — to act as a special envoy, Hebtollah said: "I am a parliamentarian, and when it comes to internal politics I am a member of the Congress (I) Party. But when it comes to national issues, such as Kashmir, I am an Indian before being a member of any party."

On problems in the western end of Asia, Hebtollah said, India remains steadfast in its support for the Palestinian cause and hopes that the present tension in the Middle East does not lead to another Arab-Israeli war.

Hebtollah, who is president of the Indo-Arab Friendship



Nejm Hebtollah

Society and as such has an excellent grasp of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its intricacies, said she was involved in supporting the Palestinian cause for the past 20 years. She accused the U.S. of not being "serious or sincere" about efforts to settle the problem. "The Americans can solve the problem 'if they are serious,' and I hope they will be serious," she said.

Noting that India has always supported Arab and Palestinian causes and opposed Israel's occupation of Arab territories, Hebtollah said New Delhi also opposes Israel's settlement policies. "It is not its right to settle occupied territories," she said.

She paid tribute to the "important role of His Majesty King Hussein in trying to solve the Palestinian problem as well as the Iraq-Iran war and the Lebanese civil war."

She described the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan as "very healthy."

Hebtollah was visiting Petra Friday. She is scheduled to meet with a number of parliament members before leaving Amman for home Saturday.

Qasem, U.N. chief review Middle East

NEW YORK (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday called on the international community, represented by the United Nations, to provide protection to the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Qasem was talking during a meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar with whom he reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian question in light of the escalation of Israel's oppressive measures against the Palestinian people.

Qasem warned of the dangers of the Israeli measures and the Judaisation plans currently being implemented in the occupied territories and Israel's intransigence in the face of peace initiatives.

Qasem said that the Israeli extremist policy has blocked the peace effort in the region and brought them to a deadlock.

Qasem voiced Jordan's hopes on the U.N. role in paving the ground for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Perez de Cuellar spoke highly of Jordan's constructive role in the region and noted with appreciation His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to maintain security and stability in the region.

The meeting was attended by Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N., Abdullah Salah, and a number of the secretary-general's aides.

Qasem said that the centre established by the Vocational Training Centre at Ein Al Basha near Salt this year admitted 500 apprentices and 170 trainees for training periods extending up to two years, according to the centre's Acting Director Hassan Abu Rayyan.

He said that the centre established by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in 1982, offers training in 12 different trades, ranging from vehicle body-repair and building to hotel management and catering.

Those entitled to receive training courses, he said, are students who completed their compulsory stage of school education and are at least 16 years of age.

"Apprentices of various ages

and backgrounds can learn a trade at the centre within four months," through intensive courses while others can have integrated two-year training courses which provide further training," Abu Rayyan said.

"The total number of apprentices who graduated in 1989 was 492 while graduating trainees were 118, Abu Rayyan added.

He said that a staff of 97 instructors provides training to the students and help them to do production work in various workshops.

The products, he said, are sold to private and public organisations, earning the centre very limited profit that covers the cost of materials.

Jordan, Egypt to boost trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian and Egyptian ministers of trade and economy are meeting in Amman in the coming week to discuss ways of promoting trade exchanges and to review joint projects in industry and agriculture.

The meeting, to open on July 15, has been paved for by a joint team of experts who held a series of meetings in Amman this week and who will submit their recommendations to the ministerial meeting, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The two sides are discussing removing customs restrictions and other barriers impeding trade, increasing the volume of trade under an existing bilateral trade protocol and promoting joint ventures. In addition, the two countries intend to take steps towards bolstering the Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route linking Aqaba with Sinai.

Abraham Badran, Ministry of Industry and Trade's secretary-general who led Jordan's team to the meeting, emphasised the need for handling economic and trade issues on sound economic basis, taking into account the interests of both countries.

According to Petra, the two sides will discuss the prospect of raising to 200 million Egyptian pounds the total value of the trade protocol agreed on last year and the question of speeding up the process of linking the two countries' national grids and linking them with those of Syria and Turkey.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz, who will lead the Jordanian side to the Sunday meeting, has just returned from a visit to Damascus where he discussed the provisions of a bilateral trade protocol.

Petra said that Fariz discussed with Syrian officials steps that should be taken to boost trade exchanges by removing restrictions; proposals in this direction will be submitted to the Jordanian-Syrian higher joint committee meeting in Damascus towards the end of this month.

Fariz, who returned to Amman Thursday night, said that he also attended the general assembly meeting of the joint Syrian-Jordanian Free Zones Company to review its financial conditions and in a bid to attract more investors to establish ventures at the free zone located between Jordan and Syria.

He said that joint ventures and investments are welcomed in the areas of industry, agriculture and tourism.

Qasem said that the centre established by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in 1982, offers training in 12 different trades, ranging from vehicle body-repair and building to hotel management and catering.

Those entitled to receive training courses, he said, are students who completed their compulsory stage of school education and are at least 16 years of age.

"Apprentices of various ages

Salt centre to train craftsmen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Saturday formally opens the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre — a project carried out in cooperation with the Italian government.

Work on the project started in 1987 and was undertaken by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) in cooperation with the Salt Development Corporation (SDC), with financing and training facilities and skills provided by the Italian government.

NHF said that the centre is designed to create a new generation of skilled Jordanian craftsmen and to provide trainers and instructors for the various trades.

The first phase of the project encompassed weaving and ceramics; other handicrafts were being introduced in subsequent phases.

The centre's activities, coordinated within the NHF's Handicrafts Development Project and supervised initially by a group of Italian consultants, include: a three-year training programme for students and courses for the public and craftspeople and a three year in-service programme for trainers.

NHF said that plans to establish production units linked to the centre were under implementation.

Meanwhile, Queen Noor announced her acceptance of honorary presidency at the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) which operates five centres catering for the needs of children with cerebral palsy in Jordan.

The Queen announced her consent when she received the foundation's chairman and members of the executive committee at Al Ma'wa Palace.

According to CPF Director Fakhri Bilbisi, the five centres have been providing care, treatment and rehabilitation services to some 4,500 children.

The NHF believes that 10,000 cerebral palsy cases exist in Jordan and is planning to open a sixth centre in Karak in the near future.

The present centres, located in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba and Salt have been providing services and care free-of-charge to all children.

"The CPF organises collections from the public, usually in October each year and raises at least JD 170,000 annually for its humanitarian services," Bilbisi said.

He said the five centres offer medical assessment to children who show signs of disability and brain injury or abnormal development in the early years of life.

According to Bilbisi, the aim of the CPF is to reduce the prevalence of cerebral palsy in Jordan from five to one per 1,000 births by improving material and child health and ensuring proper provisions for safe pregnancies and deliveries.

Early detection and treatment, he said, prevent disabilities from becoming handicaps.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarra displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibitions of ceramics, paintings by Gastone Prizmon at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Radaia and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Mevlevi Sema group at the South Theatre 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Concerts by Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.) and a Pakistani folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30) at the Forum.
- ★ Poets and poetry at Artisans Steps — 7:30 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

AYF to expand membership

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) board of trustees Thursday decided to expand AYF membership base by adding two representatives for each governorate, two others for the new members in Amman Governorate and one for the Arab members. The decision was made during a meeting chaired by representative of the board of trustees. The board members also discussed issues pertaining to establishing new branches and forming temporary committees.

Muta opens 'Medical Day'

KARAK (Petra) — Muta University Vice-President for Academic Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Atiyat Friday opened a "Medical Day" organised by the Jordanian Medical Association in cooperation with the university. The day aims at briefing doctors on the latest inventions, breakthroughs and discoveries in the field of medicine, in addition to giving them a chance to look at the latest research papers in the field of medicine. The day includes medical lectures and an exhibition of medicines organised by the Arab Centre for Pharmaceutical Industries.

Land revenues go up

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Land and Survey Department Ali Gharaibeh said Thursday that the department collected JD 2,138,000 in revenues during June 1990, compared with JD 1,636,000 collected during the same month in 1989, thus achieving an increase of 31 per cent over June last year.

No W. Bank entry without two photos

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday asked all people wishing to visit the West Bank to furnish two photos, in addition to the visit permit and temporary passport, as of Sunday 15 July. The department said that the Israeli occupation authorities will not allow those who are not in possession of two photos to enter the West Bank.

Water pollution a problem

(Continued from page 1)

along the rivers, bringing pressure on the treatment plant, leading to lesser time and efficiency spent on the purification process, according to Brummett.

Heavy metals, another long-term danger to fish and water users, are all below the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) except arsenic. Arsenic content should not exceed an average of 17.5 micrograms (1 microgramme (µg) = 1 billionth of a gramme) per litre by EPA standards. But it was found in King Tald Dam in an average of 2,680 µg per litre. Even the sturpiest of the fish could not escape it.

The source of arsenic, Brummett said, could be pesticides.

Another contaminating bacteria found in the Zarqa River, King Tald Dam and the water below the dam is the fecal coliform bacteria that comes from human waste.

The average in the Zarqa River was 720 coliform per litre (compared to the U.S. standard of 14.5 coliform per litre). The dam averaged 42 coliform, and the water below the dam 13 coliform.

"Is chlorination enough to depollute water?"

"Contrary to belief, it does not help much and overchlorination is carcinogenic," said Brummett.

The Near East Foundation, after a study in 1988, estimated that getting rid of arsenic and bacteria would cost (at present prices) JD 1.2 million. The fish production, if the water were clean, could be 400 tonnes a year.

As it is, so many govern-

ment establishments being involved (the Water Authority, the ministries of water and irrigation, health, agriculture, the RSS, and the Jordan Valley Authority) and nobody really doing much about it. The pollution problem at King Tald reservoir renders it useless for fish production.

It is equally useless as far as drinking is concerned and even contemplating swimming should be the furthest idea on one's mind. The government, in an obvious gesture of recognition of the problem, has prohibited swimming in the dam and strongly forbade fishing. This however doesn't seem to keep all people away from it and consequences are grave for human health.

A point of real concern is the possibility of contamination of crops irrigated with water from the dam. According to Brummett, contamination is less likely to happen, as by the time water reaches down to the valley it would have been further purified. The real trouble there comes from pesticides.

"There were seven cases of people dead because of ignorance rather than government apathy. But they died because of pesticides, not contaminated water," said Brummett.

Commenting on the dam's water and the possibility of finding a solution to the pollution problem, Brummett said: "The only reasonable solution is to control the lapse of pollutants. Sewage-fuelled algae blooms would then be at least partially controlled with intensive fish production. Such fish production might well cover the cost of preventing pollution."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Assad arrives in Cairo today to cement reconciliation

By John Fulkerton
Reuters

CAIRO — Syria's President Hafez Al-Assad will set the seal on reconciliation between Damascus and Cairo with his first visit to Egypt in 13 years today. The astute Syrian seldom forgoes abroad. His three-day mission to the only Arab state that has made peace with Israel is the culmination of shifts in the balance of Arab power that stretch back many years.

"It is a pragmatic appreciation of the chessboard of Middle East politics, not love of Egypt or its pro-Western stance, that brings him here," said an Arab envoy.

For Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, luring the Syrian lion — Assad means lion in Arabic — from his Damascus lair to a former royal palace on the outskirts

of Alexandria is testimony to Egypt's drive to build bridges across the chasm of the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as inter-Arab squabbles.

There is a traditional pattern in the ebb and flow of Arab power, centred on three capitals — Cairo, Baghdad and Damascus.

"When one of these centres predominates, the outsiders tend to get together," the envoy said. Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, long at odds with Assad, has emerged from his country's eight-year war with Iran determined to cast himself as the champion of the Arab World, and its defender in the face of Israeli intransigence.

Mubarak is working to mend the personal and ideological rift between Assad and the Iraqi leader. Despite close relations with Hussein, his efforts have yet

to bear fruit. Iraq insists Syria must apologise for backing Iran in the Gulf war, halted by a ceasefire in August 1988.

The 20-year-old rift was cast in sharp relief when Baghdad hosted an emergency Arab Summit in May, with Assad refusing all efforts to persuade him to attend.

The sense of Syrian isolation does not end there.

Syria has difficulties with four of its five neighbours — Israel, with which it is technically at war, Lebanon where the quagmire of civil war continues unabated, long-standing rivalry with Iraq and Turkey, mired in a dispute over water.

Assad has other problems. The Soviet Union, his principal backer for decades, is preoccupied with internal difficulties and he

can no longer rely on Moscow's supply line.

The sharply contrasting values between Mubarak and Assad and their very different reasons for getting together seem certain to ensure reconciliation falls short of a meeting of minds.

Egypt's late president Anwar Sadat, in a characteristically dramatic gesture, cut ties with Syria in 1977 after Damascus publicly savaged the Egyptian's peace overtures to Israel.

Two years later, Sadat signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state and Syria took a leading role in urging an Arab boycott of Cairo. Sadat's successor has since hauled Egypt back into Arab councils, and ties with Syria were renewed last December.

Mubarak and Assad were once teacher and pupil in an air force flying school, but they have never

thought alike and are unlikely to do so now on the pressing issues facing the region.

The stocky Egyptian would like to bring Assad into the peace process, but his astute guest might well point out during their talks that not one inch of Palestinian land has been regained since Egypt signed its treaty with Israel.

While Israel has returned all Egyptian territory occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, Syria's Golan Heights remain occupied, along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Diplomats say privately the peace process is moribund following the emergence of the most rightwing government in Israel's history.

Arab media have speculated that Mubarak will try to engineer rapprochement between

Assad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Relations between Syria and the PLO turned sour during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and worsened further when Syrian-backed Palestinian radicals drove Arafat and his men from their northern Lebanese stronghold of Tripoli.

Syria scorns Arafat's 1988 renunciation of terrorism and acceptance of Israel's right to exist as ineffectual. For Assad, only armed struggle produces results.

Indeed, some diplomats say that if Arafat and Assad do make up, it will not be because of Mubarak's mediation or because Assad has changed course, but because Arafat is under mounting pressure from militants in his ranks to revive ties.

Corruption probe

(Continued from page 1)

the exchange rates in effect in 1987. The project has crossed its two-thirds mark, and work is continuing, according to company officials who now argue that the firm has "lost heavily" because of the devaluation of the dinar.

The project drew a controversy, both in Jordan as well as in India, immediately after the contract was awarded on a negotiated basis since another Indian company, a state-owned establishment, was reported to have offered to undertake the project at a much lower cost, with the difference as much as \$20 million.

The issue was raised in the Indian parliament in May 1987 (on the grounds that the government-agreed contract was awarded to a private sector company while state-owned firms were ready to do the job) and in the Jordanian Parliament in December 1987. Both governments told their respective parliaments that it was the other side which nominated the private sector company, insisting that the project be awarded to it.

The case of food laboratory reports, according to the source, was proved lacking in evidence after a key witness, an employee at the Ministry of Health laboratory, failed to substantiate charges that "someone higher up" had tampered with test result reports which rejected several items of imported foodstuff — including canned meat — as unfit for human consumption. The original test results were replaced with forged ones which certified the same items as fit for human consumption and allowed them to be marketed, according to the allegation.

As to probes into the Swaga prison construction project, awarded in 1975, "there are two counts of charges in this case," said the source. "One involves the contract, which was awarded by the Ministry of Public Works, and the other the Public Security Department (PSD)." He declined to elaborate.

According to other sources, one aspect of the case involves allegations that the contract value of the project was inflated, and the other relates to questions over how the project was awarded to a new contractor who produced designs and specifications at a very late stage in the tendering process.

The Jordanian law of statute economic crimes — the legally specified time limit for initiating any case for crime after it is committed — covers 15 years. The Swaga project, although awarded in 1975, was not completed until 1983 and therefore remains within the law of statute, the source said.

The case related to the sale of 15,000 ounces of gold, part of the reserves held by the Central Bank, involved questions whether the relevant legal procedures were followed in the process. "The testimonies given by various officials indicate that the sale was carried out at a most critical time for the government when it could not have been delayed. Every phase of the deal has been properly recorded," according to one of the sources. "There is very little indication of any wrongdoing in the affair according to the picture emerging from the investigations. The officials who initiated the sale appear to have acted in light of a special emergency power given to them by law."

Another case involves charges that the government in power in 1987 committed itself to paying JD 4 million in an arbitration case involving a foreign company and the Hijaz Railway Corporation while consecutive governments had refused to do so since 1973 when a court decision was made in favour of the company. The refusal was based on an argument that the Hijaz Railway Corporation was jointly operated by Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia and therefore Jordan should not be asked to shoulder the burden alone.

Subsequent to the government decision in 1987, JD 2 million were paid immediately to the company and the rest was to be paid in instalments, according to sources. A former senior official of the Central Bank is implicated in the case because of his alleged links with the company as well as a Jordanian bank which had originally furnished a guarantee for the entire amount to the company, the source said.

Charges that Ministry of Supply penalties on defaulting contractors were waived without proper procedures or reason are the basis of yet another case. "It is a fact that some waivers were made even before the goods were unloaded at

Aqaba," according to the source. "There are no records of any formal procedures such as applications for clearance by the contractors which should normally precede waivers in cases of delayed deliveries or other defaults. The total amount runs into hundreds of thousands of dinars," the source said.

The Abu Nacir case stems from charges that corruption was involved in awarding the contract to build the housing complex and the project exceeded the original contract value by over JD 12 million. The source declined to confirm any figure, but said: "This is a case with strong grounds and it will be forwarded to the House since it involves a 'minister'," he said. Again, he declined to identify the "minister."

The investigations were assigned to six prosecutors assisted by representatives of the Audit Bureau, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance as well as translators (since many contracts and documents are in foreign languages). The investigation process mostly involved taking testimony. Senior officials, former and present, and representatives of foreign companies were also summoned to testify before the investigating prosecutors, the source said.

"It's like a Pandora's box," said the source. "Grounds for dozens of hitherto unknown cases pop up everytime a file is opened and scrutinised and cross-checked with testimonies."

According to parliamentary sources, the Financial Committee is working on three or four more cases for presentation to the prosecutor-general's office for investigation. The sources did not explain why no more than "three or four cases" were being contemplated while the Lower House had raised the prospect of dozens of cases derived from deliberations of the Financial Committee and presented to the House during the March 20 secret session but "leaked" to the press. These include:

- Barter trade deals with Syria and Iraq under bilateral agreements.
- According to a legal source, the case involves "senior officials who gave preference to products of a very limited number of local companies belonging to certain individuals, allowed inflated prices and denied equal opportunities to all under the government-to-government trade agreement."
- A wheat and barley import tender.

Informed sources said the affair relates to Ministry of Supply contracts awarded to certain private sector companies for the import of their grain at inflated prices overlooking competitive offers at lower prices.

- The Jordan Radio and Television Production Company;
- The King Talal Dam Project;
- Purchase of boats for the Dead Sea and yachts for the Aqaba Ports Authority;
- The King Abdullah Complex project;
- The Postal Savings Fund;
- The fertiliser and potash project;
- The Ma'in spa project;
- Appropriation of Japanese and West German loans for telecommunications projects;
- The Deir Alla pipeline project;
- Expansion at the Jordan Cement Factories Company;
- "Sale" of Jordanian passports;
- Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank;
- Purchase of a command and control centre and vehicles for the Public Security Department; and
- Sale and leasing of aircraft by Royal Jordanian.

According to parliamentary sources, the Financial Committee of the House had found that most of these projects were awarded at "highly inflated contract values involving millions of dollars."

In some cases, said the source, it was found that "projects which were originally estimated to have cost under \$3 million cost as much as \$7 million by the time the contract was awarded or the project was completed."

"In some other cases, some of the significant procedures related to determining the best offer have not been followed, and contracts were granted apparently with personal considerations and interests as the governing factors," the source added.

At the same time, said a deputy, "it is easy for anyone to cite names and projects and allege corruption. But proving the charges is a somewhat elusive. That is the reason why the deposits agreed that their deliberations should be in secret."

De Michelis goes disco-dancing before assuming EC Council presidency

By John Follain
Reuters

ROME — Italy's flamboyant foreign minister will have little time over the next six months to indulge in his favourite pastime — dancing the night away in a disco.

The shaggy-haired Gianni De Michelis last week took on a burden he will rid himself of only shortly after his 50th birthday in November — Italy's turn at the helm of the European Community (EC) presidency.

Despite his formidable girth, the unmarried De Michelis thinks nothing of hitting the dance floor surrounded by women half his age. Press photographers have a field day.

A former chemistry professor with big owl glasses, he has long been a fervent advocate of dancing as a remedy for stress. A guidebook to Italy's top 250 night clubs that he wrote two years ago has done a brisk trade.

"I have great fun dancing in discos. I think it's very useful not only from the physical point of view, but also mentally," he told reporters.

"Some politicians go jogging, others like golf. I like discotheques. That's all there is to it," added De Michelis, who also heads Italy's basketball federation.

A socialist, De Michelis' approach to the higher calling for matters of state is no less inhibited.

On his first trip abroad after being appointed foreign minister in July last year, he broke community ranks to attend independence celebrations in Libya, only to be snubbed by Colonel Muammar Qadhafi who did not receive him.

Last Christmas saw De Michelis in Vietnam, the first EC minister to visit Hanoi in six years. During the trip Italy became the first EC country to resume aid to Vietnam since it was isolated by

the West for invading Cambodia in 1978.

A Venice deputy since 1976, De Michelis will need all the diplomatic skills his fabled city was once respected for during his six months as president of the EC Council of Ministers.

But he has thrown himself heart and soul into his new responsibilities — the biggest international challenge of a career during which he has headed the state participation and labour ministries as well as serving as deputy premier.

De Michelis also needs success

to erase a slap in the face delivered last month by his own Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti over the hosting of Expo 2000.

Andreotti bowed to pressure from Venice-lovers around the world and at the last minute withdrew the Italian bid, tirelessly spearheaded by De Michelis, for the fragile city to host the world fair.

De Michelis' struggle to win back political credibility comes during a testing period for the EC. Launching Italy's presidency, EC Commission President Jacques Delors said it would be

one of the 12-nation bloc's busiest six months yet.

De Michelis wants to engineer "a qualitative leap from euro-skepticism to euphoria" and hand the twelve closer to Italy's long-declared objective of a radical, federalist Europe.

His arms slicing through the air as he briefs journalists on his vision of the future Europe, De Michelis speaks of "concentric circles" and "the acceleration and intensification of the process of vertical integration."

Arap Moi defies democracy calls

By Rowena Whelan
Reuters

NAIROBI — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, the latest African leader to face pro-democracy protests, is snubbing opponents and Western calls for reform by ordering a security crackdown.

Police and paramilitary units have been told to use all necessary force to quell riots in which 15 people have died.

Kenya has accused the United States, a leading advocate of reform in Africa, of interfering in its internal affairs.

"It's obviously a serious situation," one Western diplomat told Reuters. "But it could have been a lot worse... Kenya's a very strong state."

Street protests appeared to have subsided on last week and the government, which says order has been restored, blamed riots on criminals rather than political protesters.

Diplomats said the capital and other towns remained tense after political dissent, fanned by events in Eastern Europe and riots elsewhere in Africa, exploded into violence in Nairobi early last week and spread to towns north

and west of the capital.

Political unrest has increased since the mysterious murder in February of then Foreign Minister Robert Ouko, rumoured to have died at the hands of security forces.

Moi, 65, whose Kenya African National Union (KANU) party has been in power since independence in 1963, banned opposition parties in 1982, the year he survived a coup attempt.

Political analysts say dissatisfaction has been fuelled by a combination of factors including Moi's increasing resistance to dissent, widespread allegations of election rigging, tribal rivalries and growing poverty among the urban population.

Lower army ranks have been angered by promotions for Moi's minority Kalenjin tribesmen, although the Chief of General Staff, General Mahmoud Mohammed, an ethnic Somali, said the army backed Moi.

Churchmen and lawyers formed a loose alliance with politicians advocating more democracy. A two-fingered salute has come to symbolise support for a multi-party democracy. "There is a sense of injustice

among a lot of sections in society," said one Western diplomat. But he and others noted that protesters calling for the release of detainees have been joined by rioters demanding money from bus and car passengers.

"There's an increasing sense that this is a political thing that has been hijacked by opportunists out for a good bit of looting," one diplomat noted.

Unlike leaders of Gabon, Ivory Coast and Zaire, who all faced violent protests earlier this year, Moi has offered no political concessions.

Diplomats note that Moi has a firmer grip on power than ageing West African leaders of Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda, who last month faced the greatest challenge to his 26-year rule from protesters angered by food price rises.

Moi calls protesters hoodlums and drug addicts.

Kenyan authorities detained 11 people last week, including the two most prominent opposition figures — former cabinet ministers Charles Rubia and Kenneth Matiba — and lawyers who back demands for a multi-party system.

Call that has to be made

AT least three good news reports came out of the U.S. this week.

First there was the New York Times-CBS opinion poll that found more Americans "now support giving the Palestinians a homeland in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip." The percentage of Americans supporting a Palestinian homeland to have jumped from 10 per cent two years ago to 47 per cent now.

Second there was the Saudi arms deal that went through the U.S. Congress with almost no opposition. According to reports, the main Jewish lobbyist group, AIPAC, did not put up a fight against the \$4 billion deal, apparently because the atmosphere in Washington these days is not one of sympathy for the Jewish state or the Jewish lobby.

Then there was ex-Senator Charles Percy's long address to the American people at the National Press Club in which he called on the administration to resume the dialogue with the PLO "at an increasing level of authority," to urge the Israelis to enter into direct negotiations with Palestinian representatives, to formulate a peace plan with the Soviet Union as the basis for an international peace conference and to advise Israel that U.S. aid may well be linked to the Jewish state's human rights practices in the occupied territories.

All these are indications that a growing number of Americans, individuals, officials and even Jews are not in total agreement with Israel on issues of war and peace in the Middle East. However, it was the Americans who for so many decades provided the Israelis with the substance for their survival and for their war machinery. It was the Americans who pressured the Soviet Union to let Soviet Jews go. It is the U.S. which continues to be committed to Israel's superior war machine, existence and security. By doing so, the U.S. has alienated its Arab friends and created a hard-to-die animosity towards America. Percy summed it all when he told his fellow Americans that he and his 47-man delegation "encountered a mounting anger and hostility towards the United States which (the Arabs) accuse of total bias against them and unquestioning support of Israel."

In fact with the ascent of religious fundamentalism in the region, hatred for the U.S. and its policies will grow even stronger. The U.S.' position towards the Middle East process is playing into the hands of the extremists, and the longer such attitudes by the superpower persist the stronger the forces of extremism will grow and endanger the region and U.S. interests.

The American administration should not sit idle waiting for the Likud government to call. It should take the initiative itself and call its friends and allies in Israel and warn them that unless they compromise with the Palestinians, the region will ultimately explode in a dangerous conflagration that will be harmful to all.

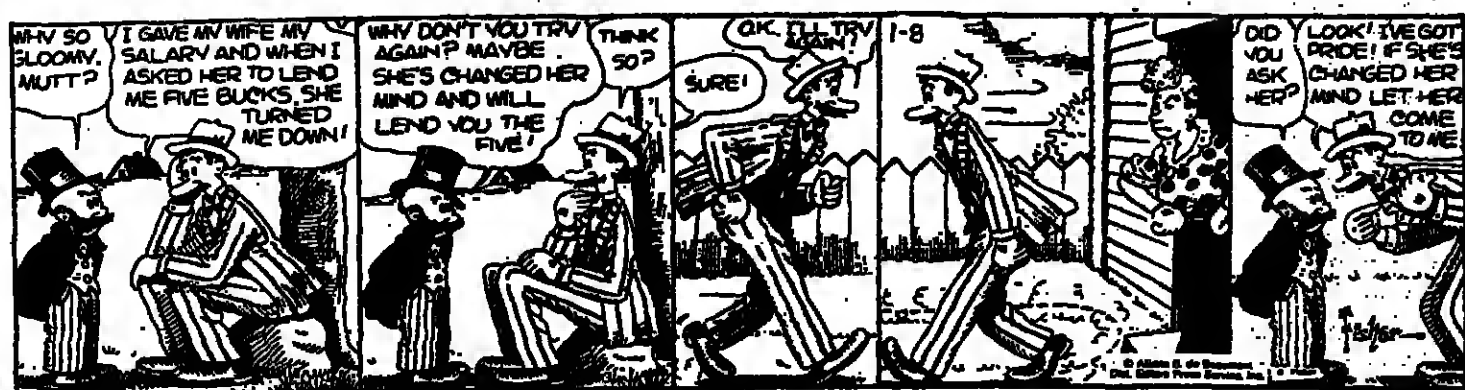
JORDAN PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Friday linked Washington's suspension of its dialogue with the PLO to Israel's escalation of arbitrary actions against the Palestinian people, and said that the Arabs have no alternative but to take joint action to deal with the situation. The paper referred to the upcoming meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis to discuss the situation as a good chance for the Arab countries to come up with new ideas to bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their rising. In the face of fast moving developments in the Middle East, and in view of Israel's escalation of its atrocities against the Arab population of Palestine, the Arab masses do not expect statements of condemnation or concern coming out from the Tunis meeting on Sunday, but rather a decision to take a collective action that would deter Israel from pursuing its present policies, said the paper. One would expect meaningful action on the part of the Arab World to prevent the aggressors and their allies from imposing their hegemony on the Arabs, added the paper. The paper said that the foreign ministers' task is not easy, but the Arab masses are hoping that they would arrive at a concerning future steps.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily is critical of the manner in which the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs dealt with the failures and shortcomings during this year's pilgrimage to Mecca. Salah Abdul Samad backs the Minister of Awqaf in demanding that those responsible for the shortcomings and inconvenience encountered by the pilgrims be held to account for their actions and face penalties, but he also emphasises the need for the public in general and the pilgrims in particular to hear the views of the national company which was accused by the minister of carrying out acts of sabotage, intended to shake confidence in the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. The writer says that the pilgrims have suffered a great deal due to lack of coordination; and the company can by no means shoulder the whole responsibility for the shortcomings on its own. He says there is a mystery about the ministry's actions, like allowing the company to go ahead with its sabotage activities despite prior knowledge of such intentions and allowing the company's buses to leave Maan for Mecca despite an earlier ban on them for technical reasons. Abdul Samad suggests the creation of a committee to be entrusted with investigating into the whole matter so that similar excesses would not recur in the coming pilgrimage seasons.

Al Dastour daily urged the Arab foreign ministers who are meeting in Tunis Sunday to assume their national responsibility and to seriously discuss measures that would thwart Israel's plans in occupied Jerusalem. The paper said that recent reports indicated that the Israeli government is racing against time to build settlements and to absorb large numbers of Soviet immigrants in and around the holy city. What Israel wishes to achieve, is to separate the city Jerusalem completely from the rest of the occupied Palestinian land in a show of determination to adhere to its annexation decision, said the paper.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Arab children — necessary investment in development

By Nur Sati

Special to The Jordan Times

AMMAN — Having realized that the core of national development lies within investment in children, conferences are being held both at international and national levels to evaluate and ensure the future of the child in terms of development and survival.

Endeavoring to bring all efforts together to curb issues that hinder the development of the child, the representatives of the Arab region gathered late in June in Tunis in order to create a document, which would highlight the regional background on the child and strategies for 1990.

According to Sarogini Abraham, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) deputy regional director for East and North Africa in Amman, the document outlined certain goals that need to be followed through and the achievements of the 1st decade. The first priority set by specialists is to cut by half the infant mortality rate from the 1980 figures.

Immunization was also featured in the document, said Abraham. "By the end of the 1990's, children should be immunized by six vaccine preventable diseases." At present, immunization in the Arab World runs higher than any other region; at eighty per cent.

The document also outlined the need for new goals for this decade in health, education, children in conflict situations and improvement of life quality.

At a time when the world at large is seeking ways to enhance the life of the child, an international summit in Amsterdam took place in June where only children were invited to attend. The purpose of the conference was to give children a chance to voice their ideas on a better future for them and to find the best ways to solve the environment, health care, natural and man-made disasters that retard the development of a nation.

The conference was attended by 55 countries and 81 participants including a boy from Egypt and Lara Smeir from Jordan, a 17-year-old Jordanian from the National Orthodox School. Before being accepted Smeir had to offer ideas on certain issues. "I had to write a new guideline about the factories and the environment," she said. "Factories should take careful measures to dump their waste in areas where there are few or no inhabitants and areas where the environment would not be seriously affected."

On the issue of human rights, Smeir wrote about the rights of the Palestinian children to education. "We further discussed the human rights issue in the conference and the outcome was that all heads of state should stop their greed and should take their people into consideration."

One of the main topics at the conference was on the "world

summit for children" which will be held in New York, 29-30 September. "The funny thing was that even though the world summit is tackling issues on the future of the child, no child has been invited," said Smeir. The participant's mission is to convince all heads of state of their respective countries to participate in the world summit and take a child with them. "I believe that children should be consulted on all issues concerning them and since I came back from the conference I have made this my first goal."

The "world summit for children," which was initiated by Egypt, Pakistan, Mali, Sweden, Canada and Mexico, is aimed at gathering world leaders of over 100 governments. His Majesty King Hussein is attending the conference. The issues to be debated will be investment in children and discussing ways of curbing the obstacles impeding the development of the child.

"UNICEF and the Jordanian government have been working closely in maintaining mothers and children issues high on the national agenda," said Touma Hazou, chief of the External Relations Section in UNICEF. He added that there has been a recommended programme for the years 1990 to 1994 based on child health care "in an attempt to solve the issues at home on a regional level and contribute to enhancing development on an international level."

The first priority is to consolidate immunization coverage at 90 per cent of all infants and to raise the immunization coverage for measles at 95 per cent, as well as expanding tetanus toxoid coverage to 90 per cent of all mothers, according to the report.

Abraham affirms that immunization in Jordan is high but there is a need to improve disease surveillance and monitoring systems. According to specialists, diarrhoea is one of the main killer diseases in Jordan. Although the mortality rate has been reduced from five per 1000 live births in 1985 to one per 1000 in 1989, the project aims at reducing diarrhoea-related mortality by 50 per cent in children under the age of five and ensuring that 90 per cent of the cases are given appropriate treatment, Abraham says.

Included in the programme is the reduction of pneumonia-related infant and child mortality by 50 per cent by 1994. "In other words, 90 per cent of the pneumonia cases should be treated through preventive actions, antibiotics or higher levels of health care," Abraham says.

In terms of childhood disability, Jordan will be seeking ways to prevent and minimise disabilities from preventable causes such as poor maternal care. "The objectives are to reach all families with information on prevention of disabilities, to ensure that 50 per cent of the new born babies are screened for disabilities and to test 50 per cent of children between the ages of one and five." No recent figures were

available on the seriousness of childhood disability but it is speculated that in the low-income rural areas, preventable childhood disabilities are high because of a lack of awareness on the parents' side.

According to Abraham, the mortality rate in Jordan stands at 35 per 1000 live births which is a major decline from 1986 when mortality rate stood at 55 per 1000 live births. "Because of a better survival for children, the psycho-social aspects of child growth and development have become higher priority concerns in Jordan," says a UNICEF report. This programme includes using mothers as educators and kindergarten, pre-school and day-care centres, conducting orientation courses, training kindergarten teachers and establishing nine appropriate day-care centres.

Malnutrition is an issue of concern to Jordan. Although no recent data is available to detect the factors and patterns, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health "recognise there is a sizeable malnutrition problem that needs to be assessed and addressed adequately," according to specialists. At present there is a survey taking place in Jerash to recognize the status of malnutrition. Specialists say "the state of child growth and nutrition in Jordan is expected to worsen in view of economic pressures resulting from the new economic adjustment and austerity programme. This makes an assessment of the present situation vital as a reference for future plans to address the problem of malnutrition."

A high standard of maternal health is seen as the foundation for better child survival. According to Abraham, areas that need to be focused on are ante-natal care, delivery and post-natal care. A survey in 1988 revealed that over 40 per cent of women in Jordan had no pre-natal care. The survey showed that "the proportion of women with adequate pre-natal care increases with urban residence, higher standard of living, education of the mother and the average educational level of the household members."

The programme will focus particularly on the disadvantaged groups. The approaches will include a combination of previous successful programmes and new ones, Abraham says. "Jordan is going to be bringing these issues to the participating countries in the hope that global goals would be set and commitment will be undertaken by all countries to enhance their nation's development and at the same time working towards international development."

According to UNICEF publications, more than 100 million children will die in the 1990's from illness and malnutrition. Every day, measles, whooping cough and tetanus kill almost 8,000 children. Diarrhoeal dehydration kills 7,000 children daily. And pneumonia kills 6,000 children each day, say the publications.

Lake Ichkeul in Tunisia to be saved before it turns salty

By Omar Sattar

LONDON — The Tunisian government is considering modifying a controversial river diversion plan that threatens to convert one of the last great freshwater lakes of North Africa into a salty lagoon surrounded by dry marsh.

The project would divert the rivers that feed the wetland of Ichkeul in north Tunisia to provide water for Tunis and other arid parts of the country.

Lake Ichkeul is linked to the sea and periodically receives some salt water, so stopping the flow of freshwater would turn the lake into a large evaporation pan and the wetland surrounding it into a dry salt marsh.

A 1976 Agriculture Ministry water resources master plan envisaged damming all six of the rivers that flow down from Atlas Mountains to feed the lake.

Two large dams, one already in use and the other under construction, would supply Tunis with drinking water and water for industry. Four smaller dams would provide irrigation for local farmers. Only one has been built so far.

At the same time the Tunisian Forestry Directorate invited the conservation course of University College London (UCL) to advise on a management plan for the then proposed Ichkeul National Park.

Says Ted Hollis of UCL: "The irrigation scheme will never be profitable. The costs are bigger than envisaged and benefits less."

Hollis says the plan ignored existing economic activity at Ichkeul. The lake's fisheries are worth \$1 million a year with two-thirds of the catch being exported. Local farmers graze 12,000 cattle on the marshland around the lake.

In ecological terms, Ichkeul is priceless. A quarter of a million waterfowl from all over northern Europe spend the winter there and it is also the home of the otter and the North African buffalo. The government recognised

this when it established the 22,000-hectare (29,640-acre) Ichkeul National Park in the late 1970s. It encompasses the lake, the magnificent dolomitic mountain that rises out of it and the surrounding marshes.

The park is listed under the Ramsar Convention for the Conservation of Wetlands of international importance, the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's network of biosphere reserves — making it the world's only site listed under all three conventions.

Despite this, the plan for diverting Ichkeul's rivers was not reviewed until pressure built up from a broad alliance of conservationists.

Hollis and other UCL staff, together with local non-governmental organisations, officials from the environment section of the Ministry of Agriculture and officials from France's National Centre for Scientific Research proposed a modified plan that would preserve the ecology of the park while allowing some exploitation of its water.

Proposed modifications include building a sluice on a channel linking Ichkeul to the sea in order to limit outflows of freshwater and inflows of sea water. UCL also proposes using reservoir water from the two large dams already built to maintain the level of the lake when the sea sluice is closed.

The third proposal, which is likely to be unpalatable to the

government, is to scrap the three un-built small dams.

Until the end of last year, the government flatly rejected these modifications, not least because the country suffered its worst drought on record in the winter of 1987-88, followed by another drought the next winter.

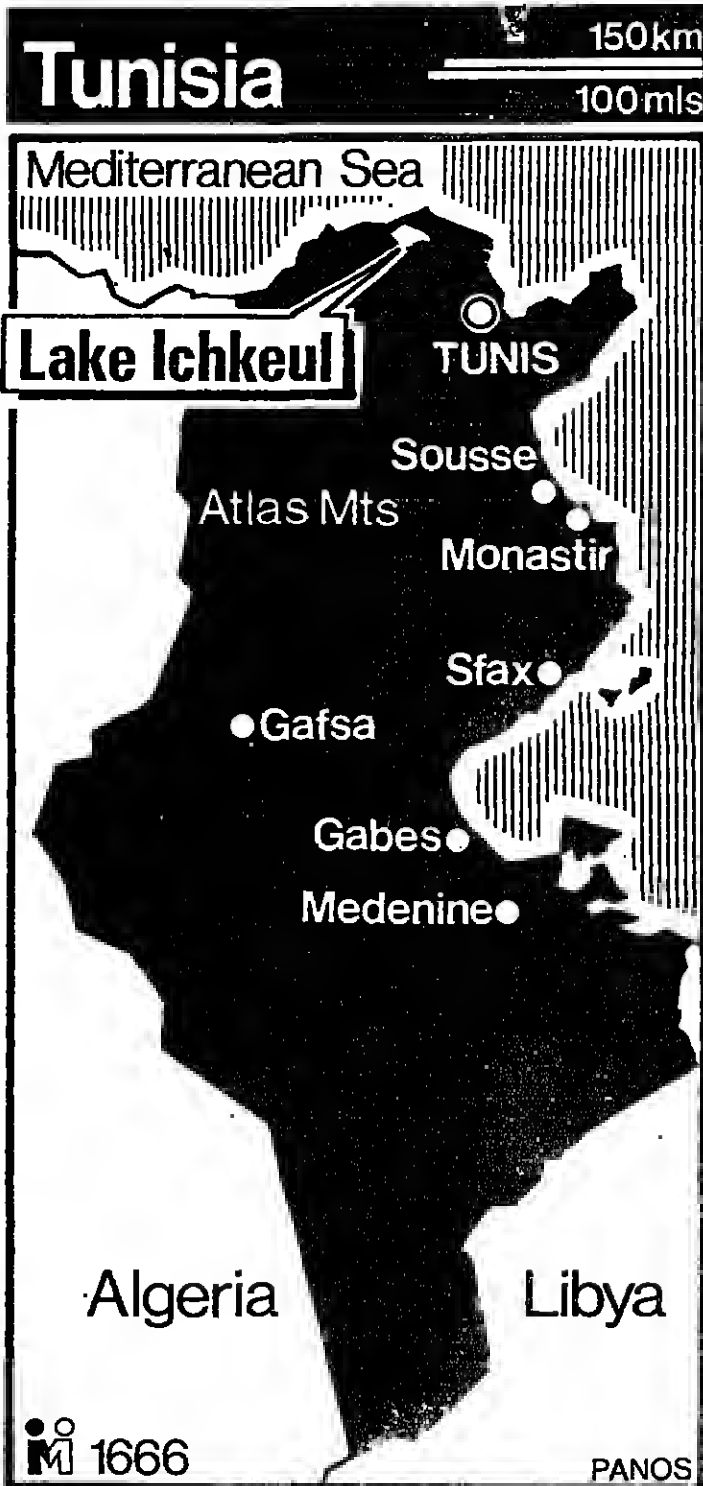
But growing awareness of the need to safeguard the environment has lent weight to the proposed modifications. This was increased when the West German government blocked development aid for part of the water resources scheme when it became aware of the possible environmental damage.

The pressure culminated in a seminar earlier this year to consider the environmental impact of the project more thoroughly and to look at compensatory measures to mitigate them.

The seminar resulted in the Tunisian government launching two years of further studies into the environmental effects of the scheme and making a public commitment to safeguard the ecological integrity of the Ichkeul National Park.

Opponents of the project hope that the government may make more tangible concessions following an international conference on the issue in Montreux, France, in July.

Ichkeul has won a reprieve, for the time being at least — Panos features.



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ATHLETICS

Sprint threatens to upstage 'dream mile' at Bislett Games

OSLO (R) — The "dream mile," traditionally the high point of the Bislett Games athletics meeting, is in danger this year of being upstaged by the sprint events.

Withdrawals and injuries have weakened the mile field and the chances of a world record Saturday look remote.

By contrast the sprints are full of interest with Olympic champion Carl Lewis set to run against runner-up Linford Christie in the 100 metres and Michael Johnson running again over the 400.

Lewis won his 100 at the Lausanne Grand Prix Thursday while Britain's European champion Christie lost for the third consecutive time to Leroy Burrell in a separate race.

Johnson, meanwhile, gave another glimpse of his immense potential with a devastating victory in the 400.

The withdrawal of Said Aonita and recent injuries to Abdi Bile and Peter Elliott have adversely affected the quality of the "dream mile."

Aonita, the world 1,500 metres record holder, saw his season come to an effective end when he underwent operations on both calves in early June.

World 1,500 champion Abdi

Bile, last year's winner, said Thursday: "I'm not in my best shape, I've had some injuries."

And Elliott, unbeaten in 21 races this year, has run only twice since a five-week layoff for a calf muscle injury.

The British Commonwealth 1,500 champion should still start to the northern season, including the year's fastest times over 800 metres, 1,500 metres and the mile.

In the 100 metres Lewis is set to deal another blow to Christie's fast fading hopes of being recognised as the world number one this year.

Lewis powered away over the final 60 metres to win in 10.09 in Lausanne while Christie finished behind both Burrell and another American Mark Witherspoon in his event.

Lewis is not scheduled to meet his Santa Monica Track Club

team mate Burrell until the good-will games in Seattle later this month.

"When we do race against each

other it's a great race," Lewis told a news conference in Lausanne Thursday.

"I believe we are the best two clean sprinters of all time and I use words loosely."

Lewis also said he was "80 per cent certain" of attempting the world long jump record at high altitude in Sestriere, Italy, next month.

"It (altitude) aids performances," Lewis conceded. "So does a following 1.9 metres wind. But it's legal so there's nothing we can do."

Johnson, fastest man over 200 this year, does not expect great things here.

The 22-year-old Texan student said after his 400 metres win in Lausanne that he was very tired and would probably race once in Barcelona after the Bislett Games and then return home.

The entry has been depleted by the withdrawals of American world shot put champion Randy Barnes and Britain's world mile record holder Steve Cram.

Cram, winner of the "dream mile" from 1985-88, had planned to run over 800 metres here in a low-key start to his international season.

But organisers said Friday Cram had pulled out because of an Achilles tendon strain.



One of the dead being carried away during the Heysel Stadium tragedy in 1985.

For one day at least, England was no. 1

LONDON (AP) — Its stadiums are shabby, its fans remain rowdy and it still can't produce a tennis player good enough to get past the second round at Wimbledon.

Forget all that. England was back on top of the sports heap recently, at least in its own provincial eyes.

Fans could fill themselves with pride along with beer at the local pub as, within 4-1/2 hours on a typically cloudy summer day, two events restored the nation so long associated with the downside of sport to No. 1.

First, the European Soccer Federation, UEFA, voted to readmit English clubs into two of its three continental tournaments next year.

The clubs were banned in 1985 after English fans rampaged through a Belgian stadium, killed 39 people.

"We are back" read the inch-high headline on the Evening Standard, London's afternoon newspaper, and fans were snapping up copies.

Soccer and government officials were quick to praise the move.

"We see today's decision as the dawn of a new era for English football and we deeply welcome it," said British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan.

Then, just as the country was drinking in that dream of good news came a double shot: England had won a big cricket series on home soil for the first time in five years.

Devon Malcolm, a young bowler first mentioned as a budding superstar during a series in the

West Indies last winter, led England to a 114-run victory over New Zealand at Edgbaston, near Birmingham.

Malcolm is a pace bowler, the equivalent of a fastball pitcher in baseball. His feat of taking five of the 10 New Zealand wickets — including bowling newly knighted Richard Hadlee for just 13 runs — could be compared with a pitcher striking out 13 batters and capping it by getting Jose Canseco looking.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) interrupted its television news headlines at 3 p.m. British summer time (1400 GMT) to announce, "England have just won the test with New Zealand."

It was worth bulletin treatment: England gave the game to the world but in recent years the world has caught up, and the last time the English won a home-field test series — a string of major international matches each lasting five days — was against Australia in 1985.

Tuesday's events heightened an already giddy feeling around English sports.

The national soccer team did much better than expected at the World Cup, reaching the semifinals before losing in a shootout to West Germany, the eventual champion. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wants to have the players over for tea, an unthinkable invitation just a month ago.

The Germans, in turn, beat Argentina, the team England loves to hate. The Falklands war and Diego Maradona's "hand of God" goal that eliminated Eng-

land from the 1986 World Cup are subjects to avoid when peaceful conversation is sought hereabouts.

English race-car driver Nigel Mansell is a favourite at this weekend's British Grand Prix Formula 1 event, and next week Nick Faldo of England, probably the best golfer in the world, has a chance to add the British open to his U.S. Masters titles from the last two years.

It's not all as rosy as an English garden.

Soccer authorities still don't know how they will meet new stadium safety rules imposed after 95 deaths in a crush of fans at a game last year. The government remains red-faced over the explosion of more than 300 English soccer fans from Italy after fights in Sardinia, Rimini and Turin.

And the tennis land of Fred Perry and Virginia Wade failed to get a player into the third round of the men's or women's singles at Wimbledon again this year, and British bookies laid odds before the tournament of 1,000-1 against a home-grown men's champion and 2,000-1 against a women's winner.

The odds against an alien landing on Earth this century are 100-1.

Those bookies may hum "God save the Queen" as they figure the hunches, but they don't let the tune cloud their minds.

When UEFA announced its decision on readmission, William Hill, one of the country's biggest bookmakers, laid odds of 7-1 against an English club winning a European trophy next season.

Tour de France picture changing

VILLARD DE LANS, France (Agencies) — Only a day off in the Tour de France Friday halted defending champion Greg Lemond's steady rise toward the overall lead.

Lemond appears ready to move out, not bawling to worry about his teammate Ronan Pensec any more.

Pensec, who belongs to the same French team as Lemond, held the yellow jersey of the leader Wednesday and Thursday. Team strategy, and cycling etiquette, required Lemond to ride defensively and protect Pensec.

Lemond did what was asked of him Wednesday when he didn't mount an attack on the Alpe d'Huez climb that could have distanced him from Pensec — as well as others.

But things changed Thursday. Pensec lost the lead when he came in just 49th in the 32-kilometre individual time trial from Fontaine to Villard de Lans.

Claudio Chiappucci of Italy moved into the lead overall with an eighth-place clocking.

He shipped from third to fourth overall, but gained 1:37 on the lead.

Eric Breukink of the Netherlands won the stage, 56 seconds ahead of Lemond in fifth. Pedro Delgado was second behind Breukink, about 26 seconds ahead of Lemond.

Breukink moved about 30

seconds ahead of Lemond overall and slipped into third. But Lemond is now just 7:27 behind Chiappucci and has a solid chance to defend his title.

"The race is far from over," Lemond said. "There are still another 10 days to go. Seven minutes are easily lost in the mountains."

Lemond understands team tactics. In 1985, he was on the same team as Bernard Hinault, who was going for his fifth Tour de France title. Lemond had an opportunity to go ahead in that race but was held under check by team orders.

Holding back in Wednesday's 11th stage for Pensec's sake, he permitted others to also stay close.

"My only regret Wednesday is that I could have had more time on Delgado because he was going most of the work. And I could have had more time on Breukink and Chiappucci," Lemond said.

"That's the way it goes, but we're going to race a bit differently from now on."

Lemond doesn't appear concerned about the deficit and the others ahead of him.

"I feel good. Chiappucci rode way above his level and I think (Eric) Breukink had an exceptional result," he said.

The race now enters its final week, with the 13th stage sche-

duled for Saturday. It winds down the mountains to the flatlands as the tour heads south, with the Pyrenees coming up on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meanwhile Gianni Bugno was confirmed as the rising star of Italian cycling when he followed the trail of the legendary Fausto Coppi to win the prestigious Alpe d'Huez stage of the Tour de France.

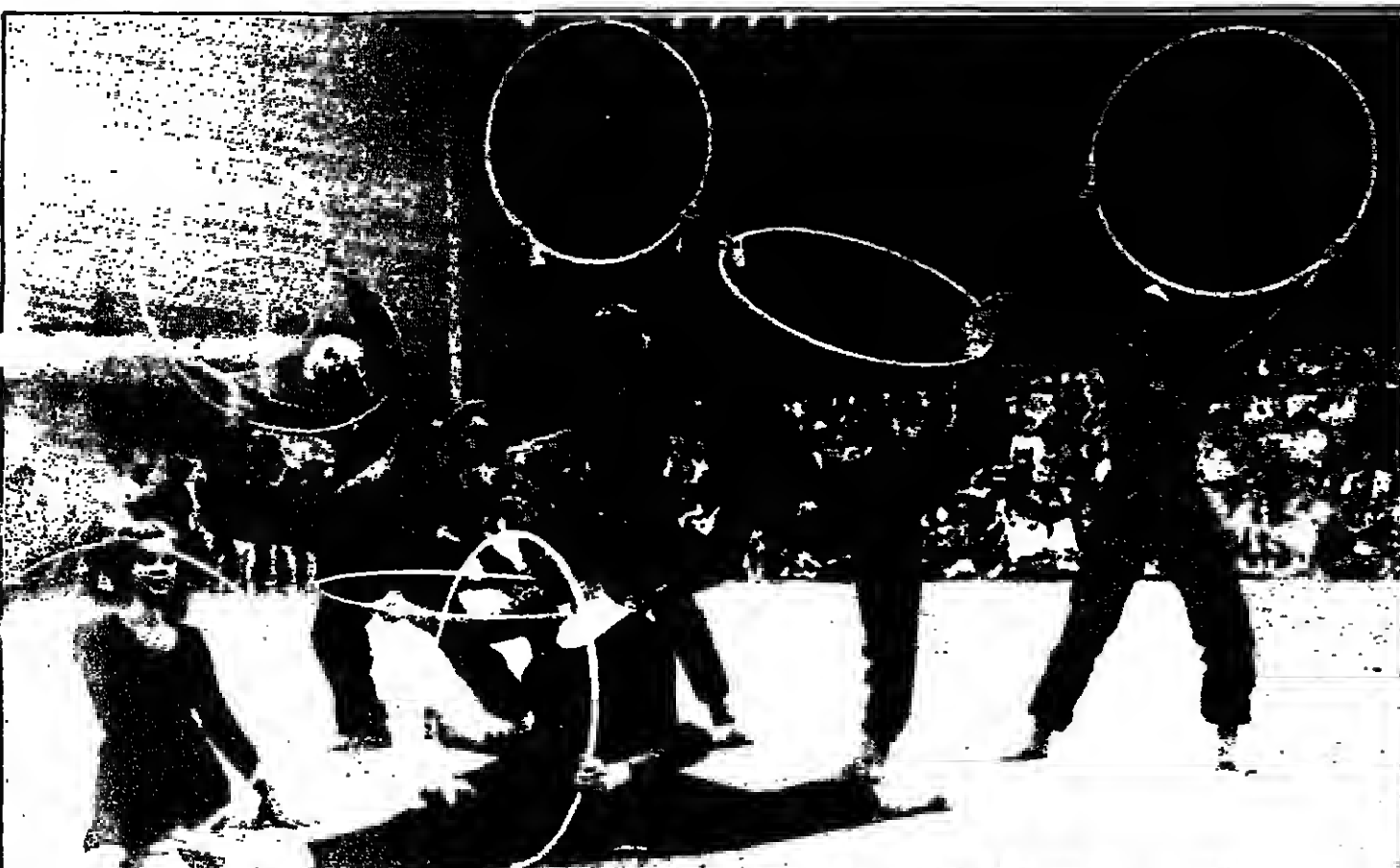
Bugno, who pipped 1989 tour winner Greg Lemond in a sprint finish after the toughest mountain stage of the race, became the first Italian to win at the Alpine resort since Coppi in 1952.

For the Swiss-born Bugno, it was another triumph to rank alongside his Tour of Italy victory, his Milan-San Remo classic win and his rise to number one in the world rankings — all of which he has achieved this season.

But the modest 26-year-old refused to compare himself with Coppi, the celebrated rider he refers to as "grandfather."

"It's impossible to emulate grandfather Coppi," he said with a smile. Coppi is the only rider to win the tour in the same year as a stage triumph in the Alpe d'Huez.

Bugno won a stage of the Tour de France two years ago in Limoges but, until this season, he had been slow to fulfil his early promise.



Gymnastics and dancing were popular highlights of the 28th German Gymnastics Festival, held in Bochum and Dortmund.

East, West Germans meet at gymnastics gala

BOCHUM/DORTMUND — Euphoria and delight at meeting again were the keynotes of the 28th German Gymnastics Festival, held in the Ruhr coal and steel towns of Bochum and Dortmund, where the sports gala held pride of place for a week.

About 10,000 participants from the East Germany swelled the ranks of 90,000 participants in all, part of the first all-German gymnastics festival since the World War II.

"German gymnasts are back together again," enthused Günter Bormann, president of the East German Gymnastics Association.

Slight mishaps, such as the orienteers failing to find the stadium because signposting was non-existent, were soon forgotten in the general atmosphere of sportsmanship and goodwill.

At dozens of events held at sportsgrounds, balls, arenas and in public facilities top-rank athletes and amateurs in all

categories testified to the entire range of sporting activities promoted by the German Gymnastics League in West Germany and its counterpart in the East. The two associations plan to merge in the near future.

West German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, the Bonn cabinet minister in charge of sport, was carried away by the festive atmosphere at the final show, seen by a crowd of 40,000 at the Ruhr Stadium in Bochum. The Ger-

man Gymnastics Festival, with its long-standing traditions, was an event unique in the world, he said.

He called on gymnasts to make their contribution toward integrating new arrivals, ethnic German and alien, in German society.

"Nowhere can a cordial attitude toward foreigners be as effectively practised as in sport," Schäuble said.

The next gymnastics festival, in Hamburg in 1994, will be held in a United Germany — German Features.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 14, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A strange day in which all kinds of benefits can be secured by making sure you stick to the comprehensive policies under which you want to operate. Don't fuss over details.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A tough problem develop early in the day that makes you think twice about proceeding with a planned course and you have a very ingenious way out to success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind about your work needs considerable more thought and a new attitude of stance is required to see today's aspects to full advantage.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A promise you have made seems difficult to do so put your attention for the moment on some other interest and especially along expressing your talent.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) As the day goes by you find less odd events occurring and a long-time partner is the best one to back up your attempts to get some positive results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Some situation you had expected to clear up at home has taken a different turn so go along with this and then do your project in an efficient manner.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't stick around your home

today but get out in the world of pleasure and activity with good friends and build up relationships with them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be careful in dashing from one place to another as it is both physically and socially unwise but put your efforts in improving your residence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to keep calm and poised despite some unusual pleasures and later you will be able to get out to enjoy some interesting hobby.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't be upset because you cannot keep some secret confidential as it was bound to come out; put your attention on private affairs.

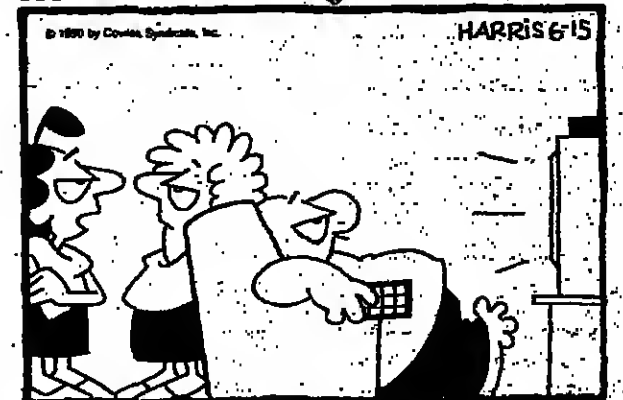
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A serious minded friend is unable to carry through with some support you were to get but as day passes you find it easy to handle matters yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be leery of the advice of a person who sees the negative side of everything and put your energies into quietly building yourself better public image.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well how to sidestep some outside dilemma that comes up early in the day and instead get together with good friends who understand you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I blew in Stanley's ear once. A big cloud of dust blew out the other side."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. Write the letters in the correct order to form four ordinary words.

FLYM

JEDDA

CLOTEK

BELUBB

Print answer here: AN

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CROUP POST DENTAL WALL OF

Answer: Why he woke up feeling down in the mouth — THE PILLOW WAS TORN

MOTOR RACING

Patrese untouched by reaching 200 race landmark

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Riccardo Patrese will approach his 200th Formula one (F1) motor race Sunday in exactly the same way as all the others.

There will be no special preparations for the British Grand Prix, no big celebrations and no parties when the Italian climbs aboard his Renault-powered Williams, looking for only his third career victory.

"I'm in the habit of taking Grands Prix as they come, one at a time. The day of my 200th

Grand Prix, I'll get up just as I did for the 199th, as I shall for the 201st — thinking about my grid position and my chances of winning."

"Not at all about F1 records. One day, yes, I'll look back over my career and count up my races. But when that day dawns I'll no longer be a Grand Prix driver — and I think that is still a while away."

Patrese is a much easier going man than he was in his early years when he had to overcome a reputation for reckless driving.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 86 ♠ AKS ♦ AKS43 ♠ 972

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass

? What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 86 ♠ AKS ♦ AKS43 ♠ 972

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

? What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 86 ♠ AKS ♦ AKS43 ♠ 972

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

? What do you bid now?

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AK ♠ A64 ♦ AKQJ93 ♠ 43

The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 3 NT Pass Pass

? What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ K6543 ♠ Void ♦ KQ95 ♠ AQ106

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J10 ♠ A9875 ♠ A ♠ AKJ87

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

Trading at AFM tops JD200 million in first half of '90

By Samir Shafiq
Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — A total of JD 202.9 million worth of shares and bonds was the value recorded by the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during the first half of this year, according to an AFM bulletin released Thursday. The figure compares with a total of JD 146.4 million posted during the first half of 1989.

According to the bulletin, the 1990 increase represents a 36 per cent rise in value which covered a turnover of 105 million shares, up 16.2 per cent from the 90.3 million shares which changed hands during the first six months of last year.

The number of contracts executed also surged by 16.2 per cent reaching 108,257 from last year's 93,130.

During the first half of this year, the daily average of shares traded was 734,143, an increase of 74.8 per cent over the daily average of 420,018 shares during the first six months of 1989. The daily average in terms of value was JD 1.6 million, up 36.4 per cent from 1989 semi-annual figure of JD 1.2 million.

Trading in government development bonds and other company debentures took a reverse trend this year where-

by only 131,695 bonds for a market value of JD 1.8 million were traded. The decline, respectively by 60.5 per cent and 67.0 per cent, was a retreat from 333,364 bonds valued at JD 5.4 million in 1989.

Trading industrial shares recorded the highest value in 1990 as it amounted to JD 100.9 million or 49.8 per cent of the total value.

In second place, at 26.2 per cent, financial shares totalled JD 53.2 million while, at 21.6 per cent, services shares came in third place with a total of JD 44 million.

Insurance shares trailed with about JD 5 million representing 2.4 per cent of the total. Prices of shares during the period covered were generally higher as the general price index closed at 137.4 points in comparison to a closing of 127.9 points at the end of the period last year. The rise of 9.5 points represents a 7.4 per cent increase.

The prices of industrial shares increased by 36.4 points, or 30.2 per cent while those of financial shares and services shares increased by 10.8 points and 11.3 points representing a rise of 6.6 per cent and 12.9 per cent respectively.

Insurance share prices were down by 23.3 points or 15.1 per cent.

Big French companies merge

PARIS (R) — One of the biggest mergers in French corporate history went ahead Thursday, uniting water utility Lyonnaise des Eaux and construction group Dumez in a move inspired by big business prospects in East Germany.

"The size of the new company will allow it to compete truly effectively on world markets," he added.

Monod said the merger would be on the basis of a share swap, with four Lyonnaise shares for three Dumez.

"This deal will give Dumez shareholders an instant 46 per cent bonus on the basis of the last price before shares were suspended," Monod said.

"Shareholders in the new company will automatically get a 16.2 per cent rise in earnings per share," Monod added.

Some industry analysts were

sceptical about the timing of the merger, saying it had been achieved in haste and that Lyonnaise had had to pay over the odds to absorb Dumez.

Monod said the new company would have 100,000 employees and turnover of \$2 billion francs (\$14.9 billion), a figure which includes construction group GTM-Entrepose which Dumez controls.

Excluding GTM, combined turnover is around 50 billion francs (\$9 billion), still making it one of the largest mergers of French history.

Monod said combined net profits for Lyonnaise des Eaux and Dumez stood at 1.3 billion francs (\$236 million) in 1989.

Western summit agrees on need to slash agricultural subsidies

HOUSTON (R) — Leaders of the world's richest industrial democracies have put together a carefully crafted compromise on the thorny question of farm trade reform.

The deal had a little bit of something for everybody.

"It is important that each of us makes substantial and gradual reductions in support and protection of agriculture," the seven leaders said in a communique issued after a three-day summit.

But it did not lay out a schedule for the cuts, leaving it to bureaucrats to intensify negotiations to find a solution.

"I am just thrilled with the outcome and I am pleased that the Europeans are also pleased, because that shows that we are getting closer together and we're moving the negotiations for-

ward," U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said.

The issue has dogged major nations for 3-1/2 years and pits the United States, which wants an elimination of export subsidies, against the European Community (EC) which fears that such a move will throw many of its farmers out of work.

The communique said reaching agreement by July 23 on how to cut subsidies was vital to the success of world free trade talks. That date marks the next meeting in Geneva of negotiators for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"We intend to maintain a high level of personal involvement to exercise the political leadership necessary to ensure a successful outcome of these negotiations," the communique said.

The final communique had enough in it for both sides to be able to claim victory. One EC official admitted privately that what he had achieved here in narrowing the differences between two sides, but at least now everyone knew the strength of the opinions involved.

Bush had fought hard, against heavy opposition from the European Community, for slashing export subsidies to farmers that he said distorted world trade.

Unable to reach a compromise during talks Tuesday, members of delegations negotiated through the night to reach the agreement and enable the leaders to announce unity at the conclusion of their first economic summit since the end of the cold war.

The communique said the outcome of the Geneva negotiations should lead to a balance between supply and demand in agriculture and ensure that agricultural policies will not impede effective functioning of international markets.

It said reduction of subsidies should include all areas currently under discussion — internal agricultural support measures, market access and export subsidies.

To take into account the differing agricultural situations facing individual countries, a mechanism to measure subsidies should be implemented, it said.

Jordan studies JD 130 m solar power plant

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An international feasibility study has established that Jordan could be the site for a 330 million Deutschmark (JD 130 million) solar power plant which can benefit the Kingdom in terms of low-cost electricity and advanced technology. A decision on the project is expected in the next few months.

The feasibility study, commissioned by a consortium of 19 leading companies from West Germany, Switzerland, Spain and the United States, has found that the project could be successfully implemented in the southern desert of the Kingdom to serve as a pilot scheme in establishing the vast economic potential of solar power technology, the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) confirmed Friday.

According to a JEA spokesman, the 30-megawatt solar tower plant can have an annual yield of between 95 and 100 gigawatts at a generating cost of 0.112 Deutschmark (4.435 fils) per kilowatt hours. Envisaged plans call for the sale of the production to the JEA, which will also contribute 10 per cent of the capital cost in services and equipment.

The lion's share of the capital will be secured by the international consortium in the form of technical development grants (44 per cent), 24 per cent in low-interest loans, 12 per cent from Arab banks, and the rest in partner equities, according to information available to the Jordan Times.

Under the envisaged plans, the consortium, led by Phoebus Associates of the U.S. including Pacific Gas and Electric and Bechtel International, will set up a company to build and operate the plant at an annual operating, maintenance and fuel cost of 6.1 million Deutschmarks (3.6 million).

The proposed company and the JEA will enter a purchase agreement under which the JEA will buy the entire production.

The project, the first of its kind in the Middle East, is under study by the JEA, the spokesman said. "But it is too early to announce anything more," he said, declining further comment except that a

decision was expected in a few months' time. "No details of the precise nature of the JEA contribution to the project were immediately available."

"Nothing has been finalized," said a senior JEA official. "The study is preliminary, and we are studying it closely."

Through the successful implementation of the project, the consortium, which also includes some of the big names in the field of power and energy in Europe, will be demonstrating several significant landmarks in solar power technology and generation, according to reports in the Jordan press.

The plant will not only establish that a central receiver plant can be operated with continuous high reliability and produce power at very cheap cost but will also serve as a pilot project to be utilised as a base for bigger commercial-size ventures.

Several similar, albeit smaller, pilot plants have been built in Europe, Japan and the United States, but they are seen as too small to be considered as successful experiments in highlighting the economic potential of solar power technology, according to experts in the field.

Jordan was selected to house the project, planned to be sited at Al Quwayrah near Wadi Rum in the south, because of the Kingdom's vast solar resources and its readiness to become a partner in the construction and operation of the project, which could go off line by late 1994 or early 1995, provided that the JEA finalises its decision before the end of this year.

The Kingdom has a proven record of successful development of solar power technology. Several pilot projects, developed by the JEA and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), have been successful and are producing power.

According to Jordanian officials, the project, apart from bringing in foreign capital and providing job opportunities for Jordanians, is of high significance to the JEA in that it will familiarise the authority with advanced technology in the field.

"We always welcome foreign investments and job opportunities,"

ties," said a senior official. "The opportunity to gain first-hand practical information on very advanced solar power technology."

Project plans call for a total solar collecting area of 202,000 square metres with 1,751 heliostats, each measuring 115.5 square metres. It will indeed be a pioneering project if the plant can produce 100 gigawatts hours every year since the projected per-square-metre production of these plants is yet unproven, according to a Jordanian solar-energy expert.

In addition to Phoebus Associates, others in the international consortium include: A 10-megawatt Swiss, 5000 kW by ASEA/Brown Boveri and 1000 kW Ingenieur International AG, Zurich; ASDEL, CIEMAT/CIEMAT and JEA, Spain; and Diederik, Fichtelberg Development Engineering, Flensburg, Denmark and Intercom of Germany.

Jordan Times
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Malaysia criticises industrial nations

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has said that developed countries designate developing nations as "newly industrialised countries (NIC)" merely to retard their growth. That designation brings devaluation of the NIC's currency, imposition of quotas on its exports, withdrawal of tariff preferences and judgment of its human and worker's rights performance, Mahathir said. The concept was devised to ensure that no other Asian country emerged as a "powerhouse" like Japan, the prime minister said on a current affairs programme on television Malaysia. He said Japan was able to graduate to developed nations status because the West had not devised ways to block its growth at that time. Mahathir said he didn't believe Eastern Europe, which was beginning to adopt the free market system, would be considered an NIC. "In my opinion, they (Western Europe and the United States) will not block Eastern Europe from becoming developed countries, in fact they would help them become so," he said. Mahathir asked what right the developed countries would have to declare Malaysia an NIC without obtaining Malaysia's consent or discussing the conditions to be set on an NIC. In Asia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan are considered NIC's.

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Aquino orders security alert after bomb blasts hit Manila

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino placed security forces on full alert Friday after six apparently coordinated bomb explosions rocked the capital's tourist and financial districts.

A military spokesman said the early morning blasts, which wrecked the front doors of the Ministry of Education, damaged cars and blew out glass panels of business offices, could be the work of rebel soldiers seeking to overthrow Aquino.

Three rifle-launched grenades landed but did not explode outside the Ramon Magsaysay Centre housing U.S. and other foreign companies on Manila's seafont.

Taiwan's China Airlines was among the offices hit. There were no casualties and no group has claimed responsibility.

Aquino said in a statement she had ordered the military and police to conduct a thorough investigation and "take all necessary measures to maintain peace and order and thwart terrorist activities."

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters after meeting Aquino that the bombings were "intended to create a heightened atmosphere of tension... (and) uncertainty" in the capital.

"That is the work of the extreme right or the extreme left... intent on destabilising the government," Ramos said. He was referring to rightwing rebel soldiers linked to six coup attempts against Aquino and to Communist guerrillas who have been fighting the government 21 years.

"This is something we should be very concerned about," Ramos said. But he added: "This should not cause us to panic." Aquino was nearly overthrown in a coup attempt last December, the sixth since she took office in 1986. Fugitive coup leaders have vowed they will not let her finish her six-year term, which ends in 1992.

A spokesman for the Paramilitary Constabulary Command, which is investigating the incidents, said the attacks suggested army dissidents were involved. "Our initial assessment is that this was the work of the rightists," the spokesman said.

"These incidents were apparently intended to scare and instil fear among our people... specially, perhaps, the business community and our foreign investors in the Philippines," Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa said.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said attacks by Communist guerrillas in Manila were the result of military successes against the insurgency in the countryside. But he denied that recent killings in Manila and threats to Americans reflected a general disintegration of security and said only parts of the country were affected by the insurgency.

He told reporters he had not thought it necessary for the United States to withdraw its Peace Corps volunteers from the country because of fear of attacks against them.

"I think the decision of the U.S. to withdraw the Peace Corps was done honestly and sincerely, but I think precipitately. I don't think it was a necessary step to take."

Four of Friday's explosions, from home-made plastic devices, occurred within minutes of each other at Manila's Ermita tourist belt near three luxury hotels. Two parked cars were damaged.

Burmese opposition warned not to declare government

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — The military junta Friday told the opposition that scored a landslide election victory six weeks ago not to try to declare a government.

Maj.-Gen. Khin Nyunt, the head of military intelligence, said the junta would not yield to international demands that it transfer power to the National League for Democracy and release the opposition group's general secretary, Aung Mye Thaw.

Ms. Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's foremost independence hero, has been under house arrest since last July 20.

"The junta is a military government ruling the country under martial law. No attempt for a unilateral declaration of government will be tolerated," Khin Nyunt told the weekly government news briefing in Rangoon.

He acknowledged international pressure to transfer power and free Ms. Suu Kyi, "but we do not care at all about such threats."

The pressure amounted to "undue interference in the internal affairs of our country," Khin Nyunt said.

The junta took power in 1988, brutally crushing a national uprising for democracy. It allowed the nation's first free election in 30 years to be held on May 27. The National League trounced the military, winning 396 of 485 parliamentary seats.

The military government says the newly elected parliament must approve a constitution before it can govern. In the past, it had said the parliament could choose between two previous constitutions or draw up a new one.

The National League has said it wishes to adapt the constitution of 1947, used after Burma gained independence from Britain the following year.

But Khin Nyunt said "both the 1947 and 1974 constitutions are no longer adaptable to the country's present situation," adding: "Hence an entirely new constitution which would not entail legal problems arising out of its shortcomings must be drawn."

The military would be willing to hold talks with political leaders only when all election expenses and objections had been cleared by the elections commission, Khin Nyunt said.

Senate nears accord on trimmed defence spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — The influential Senate Armed Services Committee early Friday approved a \$289-billion defence bill that cuts troop strength in Europe by 50,000, congressional sources said.

In a session that began early Thursday and ended shortly after 1 a.m. (0500 GMT) Friday, the committee agreed to an overall budget that is \$18 billion less than President George Bush proposed in January.

The committee, as expected, agreed to the total its chairman, Sen. Sam Nunn, had called for in military spending. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

But in a surprise move, the panel adopted a measure that reduces that armed forces in Europe, an issue left unresolved by U.S. and Soviet negotiators after stalled talks on cutting conventional forces.

All total, the panel agreed to a 100,000-person reduction in military personnel.

Nunn has told the committee to draw up legislation to two numbers — his preferred budget level of \$289 billion and the Senate budget Committee-approved level of \$286 billion.

Bush proposed \$307 billion in defence spending for fiscal 1991, but it has been a given that Congress would cut the budget.

As expected, the committee gave tentative agreement to limiting money for the two land-based nuclear missiles — the MX and Midgetman — to only research and development funds.

The administration requested more than \$2.2 billion for the two missiles but the committee earmarked \$348 million for the MX and \$202 million for the Midgetman, said sources, who requested anonymity.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney also proposed cancelling the V-22 Osprey, the tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off like a helicopter and flies like a plane. But the armed services panel tentatively agreed to more than 200 million in research and development funds for the aircraft.

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No peace without independence: Kashmiri rebel chief

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (R) — The leader of the main militant group waging a bloody guerrilla war against Indian rule in Kashmir has said peace is impossible unless both Pakistan and India agree to let the state become independent.

Amannullah Khan, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), said late Thursday that next week's talks between India and Pakistan would be pointless unless they dealt with the issue of Kashmiri self-determination.

"Simply talking about maintaining peace is not our goal," Khan said in an interview at his heavily-guarded headquarters in Muzaaffarahad.

"We stand for the complete independence of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. We want self-determination, and we will fight to the last man to get it," he said.

The JKLF is spearheading a violent secessionist drive by Muslims in the Kashmir Valley, two-thirds of which is under Indian control.

The violence has killed more than 700 people and severely strained relations between India and Pakistan, which have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

Foreign affairs officials from the two sides will meet in Islamabad on July 18 and 19.

New Delhi claims the entire state, but Islamabad wants Kashmir, most of whom are Muslim, to choose in a United Nations-mandated plebiscite whether to belong to Hindu majority India or Islamic Pakistan.

Neither side wants Kashmir to become independent.

Despite dialogue between the two countries, Khan said the JKLF would not scale down its armed struggle or agree to a ceasefire during the talks.

He also rejected as "complete nonsense" a statement by Kashmir's Indian-appointed governor Wednesday that certain militant groups favoured talks to reach a political settlement.

"They have tried this tactic a number of times," he said. "But we have experience with India. When the pressure is on, India wants to talk. When the pressure comes off, India will back out shamelessly like a prostitute."

Khan said his group, although based in Pakistani-controlled "Azad" (free) Kashmir, would insist that both Pakistan and India withdraw from the state before any plebiscite is taken.

"If a plebiscite were taken today or in the next six months, I am sure independence would be the choice," he said, adding that any Pakistani hopes to absorb the state were "purely wishful thinking."

Khan's shaky relationship with the Pakistan government took a turn for the worse when he announced on June 18 the formation of a provisional government of an independent Jammu Kashmir. Both India and Pakistan swiftly rejected the idea.

Khan, a 25-year veteran of the Kashmiri nationalist movement, said the provisional government would coordinate policy among the different underground groups and publicise their cause overseas.

"It is our guns, plus our international activity, which will have the most effective role in leading us to our goal," he said.

Khan's position as head of the JKLF came under attack in June by some senior members who felt his announcement of a new government came too soon.



Liberian rebels sit in the boot of a car heading for Monrovia

Rebels in captured coast guard cutters attack Monrovia port

MONROVIA (R) — Rebels trying to topple Liberian President Samuel Doe have fired at Monrovia's port in a raid aboard two captured coastguard cutters. Both vessels flew the scarlet rebel flag when they launched the raid early in the morning. But they were turned back by a rocket and fire from a heavy machine gun installed on the quay last week after rebels stole a cutter from the port, coastguard officials said.

A cannon at Doe's fortified cliff-top mansion, one mile (1.6 kilometres) from the port, fired twice at the rebels but missed.

The Coastguard Service no longer has any patrol boats. One cutter was captured last Friday and the other is believed to have been taken by rebels near Greenville, the port which serves the eastern part of Liberia, including Doe's home region, Grand Gedeh county.

Doe's forces have been flying men and equipment to Grand Gedeh for weeks. Liberians close to Doe said that if he is forced to flee Monrovia he might prefer to go to Grand Gedeh rather than leave the country.

The United States has said its offer to evacuate Doe applies only if he is willing to leave the country.

The recently appointed chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Charles Jusu, formerly head of Doe's executive mansion guard, was said by associates to be back in Monrovia. Earlier reports said he had resigned and had left the country.

4 Seoul opposition MPs resign as political crisis deepens

SEOUL (R) — Four South Korean opposition lawmakers resigned Friday and television workers began a strike over efforts by the ruling party to force controversial bills through parliament.

The four opposition members said in a joint statement that "the current National Assembly is already out of the picture in efforts to implement reforms... it is only harassing the people by producing vicious laws."

State radio said five more opposition members of parliament had said they would quit. Dozens of opposition politicians stayed overnight at a National Assembly room and scuffled with members of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) trying to open a session to push through various bills.

"By quitting the parliament, we are protesting with our whole bodies at the abuse of power by the regime of the Democratic Liberal Party..." the four said in the statement.

They urged the dissolution of parliament which they said had turned into a "rubber stamp legislature" since the formation of the DLP by the merger of two opposition parties and President Roh Tae-woo's ruling group earlier this year.

The DLP holds more than a two-thirds majority in the 299-member house, enough to amend the constitution.

Hundreds of workers at the nation's second TV network, Munhwa Broadcasting Corp (MBC), stayed away from work Friday, disrupting many programmes.

The strikers were protesting against the DLP's unilateral passage through a parliamentary committee of a broadcasting bill which they say contains provisions curbing press freedom.

"Our righteous struggle will continue even though all of us are put under arrest," union leader Ahn Song-Il told reporters.

Thousands of workers at the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) and two other private radio stations Friday began voting separately to decide whether to go on strike.

The new broadcasting bill would create a private television station and reorganise the KBS, which is the main MBC shareholder.

Opposition politicians and broadcasting unions accused the government of trying to strengthen its grip over broadcasting stations by setting up a docile new station.

Government officials have said the new bill is intended to introduce competition and broaden consumer choice.

In the provincial capital of Kwangju, about 200 radical students hurled firebombs at a government building Friday and were dispersed by riot police who resorted to tear gas, said the Joong-Ang Daily News.

news reports said Chinese forces killed hundreds, possibly thousands, in roads near Peking's Tiananmen Square.

The couple's elder son, Fang Ke, a student at Wayne State University in Michigan, arrived in Britain from Detroit on June 27 to join his parents.

Their younger son, Fang Zhe, also is with them in Britain. A student at Peking University, he was allowed to leave China a few days after his parents' departure.

Fang was formally invited to Britain by the Royal Society, Britain's oldest and most prestigious scientific organisation. Earlier this month he took the post of senior visiting fellow at the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University. He did research at Cambridge University 10 years ago.

The British Foreign Office said when the couple arrived last month that they had been granted standard six-month tourist visas.

The Independent said Friday that Fang is expected to settle in the United States in a few months' time. But it quoted him as saying in the interview, "part of my heart is still in China."

It said he confirmed in the interview that the Chinese authorities had insisted in negotiations with Washington that the couple should travel to a third country, Britain, to avoid the appearance of giving in to U.S. pressure.

The paper quoted Fang as saying that Britain should not allow its concern over the future



Bush drowns intruding rat in White House pool

HOUSTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush, dogged by a wimp image during his election campaign, turned hero when wife Barbara confronted a rat in the White House swimming pool. The Houston Post newspaper quoted Mrs. Bush as saying that during a daily swim some months ago she encountered a rat. "It did not look like a Walt Disney rat," she said in Houston where leaders of the world's seven richest nations were holding an economic summit. "I swim with a mask and it just went right by in front of me." Fortunately George Bush was there and drowned the beast. It was horrible," she added.

TV shows new weather map for united Germany

BONN (R) — West German television has a new weather map showing East and West Germany united, six months too soon. Clouds are gathering. "Weather maps cannot be political," thundered Heiko Engelkes, deputy chief editor of the nightly Tagesschau programme on the national ARD network. A storm in a teacup? "The new map came like a bolt of lightning to the news staff at the station which prides itself on accuracy," Engelkes said. The map shows a Germany without internal borders. It highlights East German cities such as Leipzig and Dresden in the same way as Western centres like Hamburg, Cologne and Munich. Said one Bonn resident dryly: "What does it matter? It rains on Communists the same as capitalists. Anyway, it's nearly always cloudy on both sides of the border." Although the two countries are moving towards unification, and have already combined their economies, full unity is not expected until at least after December's pan-German elections.

Over 5,000 students expelled for cheating

DHAKA (R) — More than 5,000 students have been expelled from Bangladesh colleges in a government crackdown on cheating in examinations, education officials said Friday. They said those expelled were among nearly one million students sitting a week-long nationwide examination that started Thursday. Most students were caught trying to copy from note books hidden under their clothes, one official said. He said the government took a tough line after some students demanded that copying from books during examinations be legalised. "Their demand was a challenge to our values, so we had to do something," said the official.

Calligrapher squeezes 2,300 characters onto a stamp

HONG KONG (R) — An expert calligrapher has squeezed 2,300 Chinese characters — all of them legible — onto a postage stamp, Peking's China News Service said. Zhong Xinshe wrote 150 poems from the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) on the stamp, which measured 0.88 square inches (5.72 square centimetres), the news service said. The characters could be read clearly by magnifying them 20 times, the news agency, monitored in Hong Kong, said in a report. It was not the first time Zhong had crammed his style — last year he crammed 49 episodes, or 280,000 characters, of the Chinese literary classic Dream of the Red Chamber onto a nine inch (22.86 centimetre) paper fan.

Skydiver lands on moving car

OSLO (AP) — Deep footprints on the hood and roof of Ragnar Hoem's car may raise some eyebrows, he told a newspaper. Hoem was driving at 80 kilometres an hour Saturday near the airport at Skien, 100 kilometres southwest of Oslo, when an off-course skydiver landed feet first on his car's hood, the Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang quoted him as saying. "I saw a pair of feet and somebody's rear end in my windshield and then it went bang. I had no idea what I had hit until I stopped and looked back at the parachute in a ditch," Hoem said. The impact smashed Hoem's windshield. The 20-year-old skydiver, not named in the report, suffered bruises but told VG he planned to jump again.

U.K. minister returns to major row over criticism of Germany

LONDON (AP) — British Trade Secretary Nicholas Ridley returns Friday under attack for remarks he made accusing West Germany of seeking to dominate Europe and comparing common market institutions with Adolf Hitler.

Ridley, who has been on a trade visit to Hungary, withdrew the remarks hours after they were published Thursday in the Spectator, a weekly London magazine of politics and current affairs.

His outspoken interview provoked an angry reaction both in Germany and at home and British newspapers predicted Friday that his position as a leading member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet was threatened.

The Times of London headlined its report: "Ridley's future in the cabinet cast into doubt." The Independent wrote: "Be-leaguered Ridley expected to quit," the Daily Telegraph said: "Ridley under pressure to res-

ign."

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, said in a television interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. Thursday night that Ridley's remarks had undermined the Thatcher government's economic policy.

"They are exaggerating and they are extreme and they are to the contrary of what Chancellor (of the exchequer) John Major (the cabinet member responsible for national finances) is seeking to pursue," Leigh-Pemberton said.

Mrs. Thatcher told the House of Commons Thursday that Ridley was not reflecting government policy, nor her own views, but she rejected demands for his dismissal.

But news reports said Ridley was under strong pressure from many legislators in her ruling

Conservative Party to resign.

Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock told the Commons Thursday that Thatcher should recognise the interview "is not just deeply offensive to our allies and partners, but deeply damaging to our country's interests, and he must go."

Ridley, 61, the younger son of Viscount Ridley, has survived many previous controversies because of his close political relationship with Thatcher.

In the Spectator interview, Ridley said the West German government's support for European Monetary Union, "is all a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe. It has to be thwarted."

"This rushed take-over by the Germans on the worst possible basis, with the French behaving like poodles to the Germans, is absolutely intolerable," Ridley said.

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